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150,000 workers set to launch strike today

About 150,000 members of Histadrut Clerks' Union started an open-ended strike at midnight in protest against government plans for pension reform and privatization.

The action was launched while the National Labor Court was in session late last night to hear a petition by the Union of Local Authorities against the strike.

The court had to reconvene after Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik rejected a compromise reached Friday between the ULAI and the clerks, which called for a three-week freeze in plans to deduct salary bonuses.

ULAI chairman Adi Eldar said he could not understand Kucik's objections to the bonuses, which have been paid for decades of years, and that he would hold Kucik personally responsible for the strike.

Eldar also voiced objections to the

strike, saying he thought the unions should resolve their dispute through dialogue and not by harming public services.

The strike is expected to paralyze operations in 360 local authorities and national institutions such as the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund, and will also affect Magen David Adom, the Fire and Rescue Service, some WIZO and Na'amat day-care centers,

and government companies.

Joining in the strike tomorrow will be Kapat Holim Clalit (except for doctors, who will work as usual), the universities, the ORT school network, the College of Management and Jerusalem hospitals.

Unions representing academics, engineers and social workers will also join the strike.

Clerks' Union chairman Leon Morozovsky said he doubted the strike

would last for long, and that he expected the country to look like it had "gone through a revolution" after two days.

The strike is the latest round in a Histadrut battle against government privatization plans, which have sparked fears that workers' rights would be harmed.

In another dispute, 22 sanitation trucks belonging to private contractors hired by the city of Tel Aviv were vandalized last

night in a parking lot. Police suspect that city sanitation workers were behind the action.

The chairman of the Tel Aviv Sanitation Workers' Union, Amnon Bar-David, said last night that they would refuse to honor a decision of the regional labor court Thursday night calling on them to resume work.

See STRIKE, Page 2



Hundreds of demonstrators attend last night's protest near the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem against further troop withdrawals in the West Bank.

Right-wingers protest redeployment

By MARGOT DUDKEVICH

Hundreds of people gathered outside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's residence in Jerusalem last night in protest against proposed troop redeployments in the West Bank.

Holding banners reading "Only Benjamin Netanyahu, the people are with you," and "Clinton - Israel will have to pay the 'Bill,'" a crowd estimated at between 500 to 800 listened as ministers, MKs and settler leaders spoke from the makeshift podium. The event was organized by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

"We all know that the Oslo Agreement is wrong; people are unsure, they don't know what the future holds. We support Netanyahu but we are concerned that he won't be able to withstand the US pressure," said Arie, a settler from Samaria who refused to give his full name.

Women held sleeping children in their arms, with their husbands at their side, as loud-speakers played Hebrew songs.

A youth holding Peace Now banners was escorted by police to the far end of the street.

"You better accompany him and show him where they are allowed to stand," said one policeman to another.

Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Ya'ari said the police had asked some 40 activists to stand far from the right-wing demonstration, to prevent confrontations.

Noting that the number of right-wing protesters seemed small, Ya'ari asserted "it is obvious that the majority of settlers are against the Council and for the redeployment."

"We knew there wouldn't be a large crowd; it is like one large family," retorted Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar. "People are hes-

itant to demonstrate, especially after we worked so hard to support this government."

"Fifty years ago today a majority vote recognized and agreed to Jewish sovereignty in the State of Israel," said Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled. "It was an important decision that the Arabs refused to recognize and shortly after they carried out terrorist attacks, killing seven Jewish workers from Petah Tikva. The uncle of Faisal Hussein, the Palestinian official in charge of Jerusalem Affairs, Jamal Hussein, vowed that the declaration that was signed in ink would be deleted by the blood that would spill. Since those days terrorist attacks haven't stopped."

"I call on you, Benjamin Netanyahu do not surrender to the US, European, Russian or left-wing pressure. This is the public that elected you and supports you," Peled said, to loud cheers.

Other speakers included MK Hanan Porat (NRP), MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet), MK Benny Elon (Moledet) and settlement council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein. One after another they begged Netanyahu not to buckle under US pressure or agree to further withdrawals.

Porat read out a letter from Yoel Tzur, whose wife Ita and son Ephraim were murdered near their home in Beit El. Tzur's letter, he said, stressed the importance of demanding that the Palestinians fulfill their commitments as well.

"I, on behalf of all the bereaved families whose loved ones were killed by terrorists, demand that Israel stand firm and demand the terrorists be extradited," Tzur wrote.

"Nothing has been done, my wife and son's murderers roam freely in Ramallah just near my home in Beit El," he continued. "The government must refuse to continue until all the terrorists are handed over. Until this is done our wounds continue bleeding."

The Women in Green are holding a "Not One Inch" demonstration outside the Prime Minister's office beginning today at 9:00 a.m.

Itim adds:

Several dozen Meretz supporters demonstrated over the weekend in protest against right-wing incitement against the prime minister, such as posters that appeared in Jerusalem last week showing Netanyahu in a keffiyeh, and labeled "The liar."

"We are warning against the next political murder and demand that the police and General Security Service arrest anyone inciting to murder," said MK Meretz Ran Cohen. "Two years have passed [since Yitzhak Rabin's assassination] and nothing has been learned."

The party stressed in a statement that although it opposed Netanyahu's policies, it felt compelled to sharply denounce any form of incitement.

Tsomet also condemned the posters, and asked that the elements responsible for them restrain themselves and not get swept into extremist actions that could bring another tragedy.

President Ezer Weizman said, that "this is a serious act committed by crazy people. I don't care if they're from the right, the left, or the center. This has to stop."

Liat Collins adds:

MK Ophir Pines (Labor) wrote a letter to Uri Avnery, who heads the Gush Shalom peace group, to protest the group's advertisement in Friday's Ha'aretz which said: "The prime minister is an enemy terrorist act."

"All of us have severe criticisms of the prime minister and his policies but we must restrain ourselves and check and recheck our words," Pines wrote. He recalled the incitement which preceded Rabin's assassination.

Cabinet likely to OK pullback

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Cabinet endorsement of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's package deal, including a second troop withdrawal in the West Bank, appears certain today, despite yesterday's right-wing demonstration against a pullback.

Government sources expected the ministers to appoint a special committee to work out details of the proposed further redeployment, rather than determine the precise geographical dimensions now.

The package deal proposed by Netanyahu, entails retention, after final-status talks, of the Jordan Valley as a buffer against military attack from the east, continued Israeli control over Jerusalem's enlarged municipal boundaries and inclusion of the Etzion Bloc of settlements within Israel's borders.

It also stipulates that a security zone must be demarcated beyond the Green Line in the West Bank.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan are expected to vote against the pullback. They may be joined by the National Religious Party's ministers.

Of particular interest will be the position taken by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, both because of the powerful portfolio he holds and his links to the NRP.

The two ministers representing Yisrael Ba'aliya, Natan Sharansky and Yuli Edelstein, are being counted among the potential affirmative votes, but Edelstein may abstain.

A comfortable majority in favor

of the pullback would boost Netanyahu's domestic and international image, allaying criticism that his power base has been eroded by a number of events, including the recent controversies within the Likud.

Sources confirmed that the premier will stop short of specifying what percentage of the West Bank

of the agreement - to fight terror and its infrastructure - and by this create a different atmosphere... between us and the Palestinians. I believe that an agreement will be reached by the government on the steps that have to be taken over the second stage. The focus, of course, should be the issue of the final status."

Itim adds:

Nabil Shaath traveled to Egypt yesterday to meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa. Foreign Ministry director-general Eitan Bentsur and deputy director-general for the Middle East and peace process Yoav Biran will travel today to Egypt to meet with Moussa.

Palestinian riots throughout West Bank, Page 2

Jerusalem Post Staff adds:

The current impasse in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations is totally unrelated to Iraq's efforts to provoke a crisis over UN sanctions, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, said in a letter released last week by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"We do not link these issues," Albright said, after the conference expressed its concerns over reports that the Clinton administration was linking the Iraqi crisis and the talks.

The status of the peace process "affects the regional environment," as well as American influence in the region, Albright wrote. However, she wrote that "we are dealing with Saddam and regional implications of his provocations and the merits of the case, and not with any connection to the Arab-Israeli negotiations."

Five IDF soldiers wounded in security zone Three SLA troops killed

By DAVID RUDGE

The building was damaged but there were no children in school at the time. Last Sunday Amal Hebron shelled the Beit Leif village in the security zone, killing eight people and wounding several others.

On Friday IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Soujoud region of south Lebanon.

The IDF spokesman said the planes staged two attacks in which pilots reported accurate hits and all the planes returned safely to their bases.

The raids were apparently in response to Hizbullah mortar and light weapons fire at SLA outposts.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on Friday visited the senior IDF officer, Col. Yair, who was slightly wounded in a close-range clash with Hizbullah gunmen near the SLA's Soujoud outpost on Thursday.

Yair, who is being treated in Rambam Hospital's surgical ward, was visited earlier by OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amir Levine and President Ezer Weizman.

Yair had gone to an observation point and surprised one or more gunmen lying in ambush nearby. He managed to shoot one bullet before return fire knocked his rifle out of his hands, and then he hurled a grenade at the attackers.

Mordechai reiterated that the security zone was vital to the defense of northern communities and that the IDF would remain there until appropriate security

agreements were reached.

"The main problem is that we don't want to be on Lebanese soil. We are there for the sake of security," he said. "We have to seek and find any way possible to achieve a political arrangement with a serious element that would be able to guarantee the security of the North and then we would be able to pull out our forces."

"As long as there is no such arrangement we have to strengthen IDF officers and soldiers who are doing their job properly, and not, God forbid, weaken their hands or harm them, Mordechai said.

The Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said Friday that if the IDF withdrew unilaterally from Lebanon, militia groups in Lebanon would be able to fire at civilians in Israel. "Given that the alternatives are either to have soldiers or settlements stand in the way of the terrorists, it is clear which one we would choose."

He added it would be irresponsible to withdraw before Hizbullah quit attacks on Israel and before there was a force in south Lebanon that could keep the border quiet.

Meanwhile, Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Viktor Posevayuk will raise a proposal for a prisoner exchange between Israel and Hizbullah when he visits Beirut next week, a Lebanese newspaper, *Ed-Diyar* reported on Friday.

10,000 celebrate 50th anniversary of UN partition resolution in Tel Aviv

Some 10,000 people participated last night in a street celebration in Tel Aviv marking the 50th anniversary of the UN partition resolution that led to the creation of the state.

The event recreated the

moments of waiting for the results of the UN vote 50 years ago and the celebrating that occurred after it. The crowd held signs that read

UN head Annan delivers message to TA celebrations, Page 4

"Boo to the White Paper" and "A Hebrew state now!" Actor Tuvia Tzafir played the roles of Golda Meir and David Ben-Gurion.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo presented the ambassadors of the 33 UN member nations that approved the resolution with a gift of appreciation, at a ceremony at Independence Hall.

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who represented the government, noted that the State of Israel has not achieved the peace with all its Arab neighbors as it had hoped to do 50 years ago.

"Let us hope that during the coming jubilee we will reach a comprehensive peace and that all Jews will immigrate to Israel," he said.

Gideon Samet, 93, who covered the celebrations 50 years ago for *Ha'aretz*, recalled the original event as one of "fear, pride, and gumption."

Geula Ben-Eliezer, the daughter of David Ben-Gurion, recalled her father's depression as he feared the impending invasion of the Arab armies.

"We need men like him today," she said. "But where will they come from?"

There were also a number of special performances in the city, including a concert by the Israeli Philharmonic and a festive performance by the Baisheva Dance Company.



Winning cards

In Friday's daily, Chance drawing, the winning numbers were 12, 15, 18, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100.

DC police sued over treatment of Jews at rally

By WILL WOHLGELTEN

The young Jewish group suing a US police agency for mistreating their demonstrators at the Million Man March in Washington, DC.

Police officers and officers say their First Amendment rights were violated when police prevented them from protesting against the march. They claim police officers used force, threatened them, and searched them without cause.

The suit is supported by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The two defendants are the District of Columbia Police Department and the District of Columbia Attorney General.

The suit was filed in federal court in Washington, DC.

The suit is part of a larger effort to challenge the government's treatment of protesters at the Million Man March.

The suit is part of a larger effort to challenge the government's treatment of protesters at the Million Man March.

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NEWS

in brief

Labor approaches Yoram Yair to run in J'lem

The Labor Party has asked Maj.-Gen. Yoram Yair, the former military attaché in Washington, to run for the post of Jerusalem mayor, Israel Radio reported last night. Yair is retiring from the IDF.

The request was made after Labor MK Uzi Baram decided not to run.

Jerusalem Post Staff

4 Arabs suspected in Old City attacks arrested

Police have arrested four Palestinians suspected of assaulting Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall and at yeshivas, officials said yesterday. None, however, were believed connected with the fatal shooting on November 19 of Ateret Cohanim yeshiva student Gavriel Hirschberg.

Border Police on Friday captured two residents of Jerusalem's Old City on suspicion that they threw a firebomb at a porch overlooking the Western Wall. The bomb caused no injuries. Both suspects also said they threw a fire bomb at the Shurva Banim yeshiva on Thursday, an attack which caused no injuries. *Avich O'Sullivan*

Two dead, 11 hurt in road accidents

The driver of a car was killed and three passengers were injured Friday night in the lower Galilee, when the car crashed into a trailer truck that blocked its way between the Hanaton and Kfar Manda intersections. The victim was identified as Ahmed Asalah, 62, of Kfar Arabeh.

A pedestrian was struck and killed Friday morning by a truck in Rishon LeZion as he crossed the Ashdod-Tel Aviv highway. The victim was pronounced dead after MDA medics tried in vain to revive him.

Eight other people were injured yesterday in a car crash near Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon. Four had to be hospitalized. *Itim*

Fists and stones fly in Pardess Hanna

A Yediot Aharanot photographer was hit and police had to be called in to quell a stonethrowing and fist-fighting feud that broke out yesterday between haredi and non-religious groups in Pardess Hanna. The brawl occurred as secular people from around the country visited the town and attended a concert by the Amazons rock group in solidarity with its secular residents. *Itim*

Israeli artists forced to cancel Amman showing

Participation by Israeli artists in today's opening of a Middle East art exhibition in Amman was canceled when the Jordanian authorities refused to allow armed Israeli security personnel to accompany the delegation.

Eleven Jewish and Arab artists, accompanied by 15 journalists, were to have left this morning for the El-Nabatiin Gallery in Amman whose owner, Issam Nussir, has organized an art exhibition of Middle Eastern artists in honor of King Hussein's birthday.

Asked why the Foreign Ministry had not sorted out the security arrangements before authorizing the trip, Foreign Ministry spokesman Aviv Shiron said, "The ministry does not decide these things. We tried to find a solution that would satisfy both sides, but without success." *Helen Kaye*

Bird-nappers caught with 100 goldfinches

Nature Reserves Authority inspectors in Tel Aviv caught two local residents with an illegal hoard of 50 goldfinches and Herzliya police caught two Palestinians from Gaza with another 50 birds. Goldfinches are a protected species in danger of extinction due largely to mass hunting. The NRA is asking the public not to buy the birds and to report cases of their sale. *Liat Collins*

Australian athlete can get Internet messages

Hundreds of people have sent get-well messages over the Internet to Sacha Elterman, the 15-year-old Australian athlete seriously hurt in July's Maccabiah bridge collapse. The establishment of the Internet site was initiated by Eli Hacohen, Internet reporter for Israel Radio, and was put up with help from Coral Net. The Web site is at <http://www.coral.co.il/sacha>. Peter Elterman will be interviewed tonight at 9 on *Interbet*, Reshet Bet's weekly Internet show, to describe his and his daughter's reactions to the messages. Her doctors and her family, who are always at her bedside in an Australian hospital, said expressions of support like this help her recovery. *Judy Siegel*

Uzi Arad on mystery trip

By JAY BUSHINSKY

*Mystery enveloped the travels of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political adviser, Uzi Arad, yesterday following an Israel Radio report that he was on a secret mission to an unspecified destination.

"I have absolutely no clue as to where he went," said David Bar-Ilan, communications adviser to Netanyahu. The inevitable speculation prompted by the apparent leak centered on the reported duration of Arad's trip: two days. This made Europe a plausible venue for the kind of clandestine contacts that were his stock-in-trade during his

career as a senior Mossad official. Arad's main area of concern since assuming his post in May has been Syria, particularly the resumption of the truncated dialogue with President Hafez Assad's regime.

Therefore, he may be conferring with a Syrian emissary or a foreign go-between on this issue. Other guesses are that he may be trying to close a deal with Egypt on the release of Azzam Azzam, the Israeli engineer imprisoned in a controversial spy case, or working on a formula to free Capt. Ron Arad, the IAF navigator captured by Shi'ite guerrillas in Lebanon 11 years ago.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

MAJER AKSELRAD ז"ל

Mourning by his children:
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The funeral will take place at the Savyon Cemetery on Monday, December 1, 1997, at 11:00 a.m.

Shiva at 10 Uri Street, Tel Aviv.

We mourn the passing of our mother,
grandmother and sister

IRENE WINTER

The funeral will take place on Sunday,
November 30, 1997, at 3:00 p.m. in Kibbutz Lavi.

Shiva in Kibbutz Lavi.

The family and Beit Lavi

Dozens hurt in Bethlehem riot

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

Arab demonstrators yesterday broke through Palestinian Police lines and hurled stones at Israeli forces guarding Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, who then fired rubber bullets, wounding over three dozen protesters.

It was one of the most serious clashes in the West Bank in several months.

Two IDF soldiers and three border policemen were hit with stones, but were all lightly injured, the army said. One of the Palestinians hit with a rubber bullet was reportedly hit in the head and is in serious condition.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, thousands of Palestinians demonstrated against Israel's reported offer for a limited troop withdrawal in the territories.

In Nablus, a crowd of over 3,000 students applauded the burning of the Israeli flag. But they cheered wildly as a cardboard mockup of red-roofed Jewish settlements was carried on stage and blown up with firecrackers.

Large demonstrations also took place in Ramallah and the Palestinian-controlled areas of Hebron. But these demonstrations passed quietly, the army said.

In Bethlehem, however, about 2,000 people took to the streets to demand the release of Palestinian prisoners and march in solidarity against the continued imprisonment of Ateef Alian, a Palestinian woman affiliated



Masked Palestinians prepare to blow up a mock-up of a settlement during a demonstration yesterday in Nablus. Thousands of people participated in the protests at An-Najah University, and cheered as the cardboard structures were destroyed. (Reuters)

with the Islamic Jihad. She has been on hunger strike for the past 40 days to protest her detention.

A few hundred Palestinians broke off from the protest and charged Rachel's Tomb, throwing stones at the soldiers sta-

tioned there. The soldiers replied with tear gas, concussion grenades and rubber bullets, the army said. Palestinian reports said the demonstrators had also gone to the nearby rooftops and dropped chunks of cement on the

soldiers. At least 37 Palestinians were wounded by IDF gunfire, Arab hospital officials said, including the man hit in the head.

Bethlehem is the hometown of Alian, who smuggled a letter out

of an Israeli jail which was published in Palestinian newspapers yesterday. In it, she appealed to her "brothers and sisters to help me and other prisoners and not to disappoint us. I have no other choice, it's freedom or martyrdom."

Likud MKs to press PM for new probe team

By SARAH HONIG

A number of ministers and leading Likud MKs plan to press Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu today to appoint a new probe team for the party's recent convention and to push ahead with the referendum he promised to poll the Likud members about the future of Knesset primaries.

This follows the resignation last Thursday of the entire inquiry committee Netanyahu appointed. The committee members all quit due to challenges against the membership in the committee of Science Minister Michael Eitan. He had previously expressed strong views on what went wrong at the convention and, vociferously demanded the sacking of then director-general of the Prime Minister's Office Avigdor Lieberman, who has since resigned.

Likud central committee members petitioned the party court claiming that Eitan cannot be regarded as impartial enough to be included in the inquiry committee.

After the committee's disbandment, Netanyahu announced it would be up to the party court to set up a new committee and that he would have nothing more to do with it.

However, it emerged that the party court's authority to appoint such a committee is far from clear, according to most interpretations of the Likud's constitution, and that the swiftest method to put such a committee into operation would be for the party chairman, i.e. Netanyahu, to appoint it.

Likewise, it is still not understood in most Likud quarters how the referendum can be organized. The party rules make no provision for it and the mechanisms of a referendum are also unclear, as it could be held by mail or by casting ballots at party branches.

Many complex issues are involved and there is no indication how and when any of them could be solved in order to get the referendum process actually under way.

Eitan said yesterday he would approach Netanyahu immediately following the weekly cabinet session this morning and demand that he make sure a new probe team is appointed so the matter is not swept under the carpet.

A similar demand will be pressed by Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who only last week apparently patched up her relations with Netanyahu and withdrew her threat to bolt the government.

She also said the "inquiry" is part of a promise by Netanyahu personally and he must see to it that it actually gets off the ground. Even

if difficulties were at first encountered, he cannot pull away from the venture, and he must make sure an inquiry does take place. The inquiry is absolutely necessary in order to clean the Likud's air and so is the referendum. None of these undertakings can be forgotten and we will make sure they cannot be put out of mind.

Livnat said her "subjective opinion is that early elections - perhaps at the prime minister's own initiative - ought not be ruled out next year. But I am not saying this due to any inside knowledge. I am speaking just on the basis of personal intuition - nothing more."

But the Prime Minister's Office

body denied that any early elections are in the offing, and the Likud last night issued an official statement saying the "next elections will be held as scheduled in the year 2000."

The Likud statement came in reaction to a decision by the Labor central committee last Thursday to put the party on an election footing, due to the expectation of early elections. The Likud spokeswoman told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that Labor is mostly motivated by "empty coffers." The idea is to raise funds supposedly for the approaching campaign, when in fact Labor sorely needs money for its daily operations.

King Hussein: Peace will prevail

AMMAN (AP) - King Hussein said yesterday that despite Israeli foot-dragging, peace will prevail because of the Israeli people's resolve.

"Although the peace process has been somehow stumbling recently as a result of the Israeli government's intransigent policy, we believe the people's resolve to realize peace will eventually win over all obstacles," Hussein said.

He told the opening session of parliament that peace "has never been but a strategic option for us... but we in Jordan have wanted and still want it to be a comprehensive and lasting peace based on righteousness and justice."

The king did not directly criticize Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government but said: "One should differentiate between the position of the Israeli government

and that of the [Israeli] people." Rebuking anti-peace rhetoric by his country's hardliners, Hussein said he was "fed up" with their "old-fashioned methods and practices."

The address followed a lavish military ceremony at the domed Parliament House in the heart of Amman. Hussein, who holds the title of the supreme commander of the armed forces, inspected a guard of honor as 21 guns boomed in a traditional salute.

The 80-member Chamber of Deputies, elected on November 4 for a four-year term, met jointly with the 40-member, royally appointed Senate to hear Hussein outline his policy.

For the second time in two years, Hussein wore a business suit. For at least the previous three decades, he wore a black-and-gold ceremonial

military uniform on such occasions. Parliament later elected Saad Hayel Srou as speaker. Srou is a pro-government politician and was speaker for three years in the previous legislature.

In the 45-minute speech, Hussein reiterated support for the Palestinians until "they secure their legitimate rights and establish their independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as their capital."

On Iraq, Hussein said "the Iraqi people's suffering has remained a source of worry to us... and therefore, we will work to the best of our abilities to end this suffering... and preserve the territorial integrity of this brotherly country."

Domestically, Hussein vowed broader public freedoms in line with a liberalization process introduced in 1989.

STRIKE

Continued from Page 1

The sanitation workers launched sanctions on Wednesday to protest the city's hiring of private contractors so that garbage would be hauled away on a daily basis.

On Friday, police arrested five Tel Aviv sanitation workers suspected of overturning dumpsters onto main roads.

In Dimona, 117 railroad employees continued barricading themselves at the station, and some burned tires to protest planned layoffs. *(Itim)*

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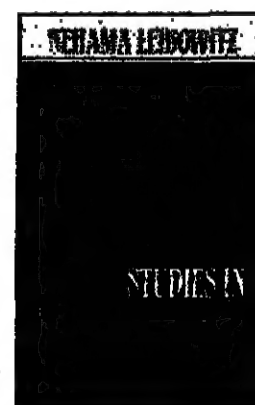
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Nazi gold parley to create \$60m. victims' fund

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — A three-day, 37-nation conference on Nazi gold that opens here on Tuesday, is likely to lead to the creation of a \$60 million fund to assist survivors of the Holocaust and their families.

Some of the last remaining secrets of the Nazi regime are also expected to be uncovered, as the conference, to be attended by politicians, historians and Holocaust survivors, examines the wartime trade in Nazi gold.

Money for the proposed compensation fund is currently held by the Tripartite Gold Commission, consisting of the governments of the United States, Britain and France, which was set up after World War II to disburse gold that had been looted by Nazi Germany.

The gold had long been assumed to come from the treasuries of the states it occupied. Recently, it has been revealed that an unknown quantity of gold from Holocaust victims also was at the disposal of the gold commission.

The commission has already disbursed 98.6% of the 337 tons of gold that was recovered after the war to governments that were looted by the Nazis.

The Allies have proposed that the remaining 5.5 tons be used to benefit survivors, mainly in eastern Europe, who have not been eligible for previous reparations programs.

There are 10 countries still seeking reimbursement, however: Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, Italy, Poland, Albania, Greece, the Czech Republic and Yugoslavia. These governments, whose original claims were never fully satisfied, will be asked to forgo their claims to create the compensation fund.

The conference, to be held at Lancaster House in London, was convened by British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook in one of his first acts after the Labor government won power in May. Delegates will examine where the looted gold was deposited and the extent to which former occupied countries have been reimbursed.

But the centerpiece of the conference and the more practical issue for the estimated 350,000 Holocaust survivors will be the question of disbursing the remaining Nazi gold.

Several of the countries represented at the conference will be fighting hard to preserve their reputations. Foremost

among them is Switzerland, which is alleged to have been the major beneficiary of the Nazi gold-laundering operation during the war.

Switzerland has already been shamed into breaking its rule of banking silence to reveal the names on thousands of bank accounts that have been dormant since the war. Claims against those accounts will be resolved by the Volcker Committee, a panel of the Swiss Bankers Association and the World Jewish Restitution Organization.

At the same time, Swiss banks and enterprises established last March a humanitarian fund for needy victims. That fund, a collaborative effort between the WJRO and Swiss delegates, made its first payments, of about \$400 each, to survivors in Latvia earlier this month.

The Swiss are understood to be in a fighting mood. They have prepared a robust defense of their dealings with Nazi Germany and the head of the Swiss delegation, diplomat Thomas Borer, said he would approach the conference in a spirit of optimism and self-confidence.

He will assert that Switzerland had been compelled to buy gold from Germany in 1941 because the Allies had frozen most of its assets deposited for

security in the US before the war.

He will also claim that gold obtained from Nazi Germany was freely tradable and that, as all imports from Romania, Hungary, Portugal and Turkey had to be paid for in gold, Switzerland's gold trade with Nazi Germany was essential for vital Swiss transactions.

In addition, he will tell delegates that, contrary to the common view that the Swiss National Bank traded mainly with Germany during the war, it bought just two billion Swiss francs worth of gold from the Nazis, but far more from the Allies. He will also point out that Switzerland dealt with the central banks of 16 countries during this period.

Other states that might fear disclosure of their wartime activities include the Vatican, which sealed its records for a hundred years after being accused of having knowingly assisted the transfer of some of Nazi Germany's looted assets.

Russia will also be eager to assure that the gold question is contained and does not spill over into other looted wartime assets, which might include artworks that the Russian Army took not only from German museums, but also from the stock of art treasures which Germany had looted in the countries it had occupied.

Even the US now believes its own postwar record is not unblemished and might be vulnerable to criticism by survivors. If pushed into a corner, the Swiss have indicated that they might be prepared to produce evidence that the US had knowingly accepted tainted gold after World War II.

Britain itself is likely to face embarrassing charges that it applied its laws on confiscated enemy assets in a selective and unfair manner, returning the assets of eastern Europe's nobility, while rejecting the claims of Holocaust survivors.

The principal accusers are the families of Peter Csango, John Leopold and Reuven Tal who have tried unsuccessfully so far to recover money their Hungarian families had deposited in London banks before the war.

Leopold contends that documents in the Public Record Office indicate that, while it rejected Jewish claims, Britain found ways of returning the assets of some of eastern Europe's wealthiest and most influential families, including Romania's King Carol II.

Britain is also expected to face criticism for obstructing efforts to finance post-war aid for displaced persons. London did not want to make available

funds that would be used for immigration to Palestine, and resisted key segments of the reparations agreements because they gave "concrete legal standing" to the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee, according to research by Ron Zweig, a historian at Tel Aviv University.

In 1947, the British Foreign Office then tried to block reparations funds to the Joint, hoping to bankrupt it, according to Zweig's research.

Speaking about the compensation fund, Cook said "There remain several thousand survivors of the Holocaust and their families especially in eastern Europe who have as yet received little or no compensation for their suffering. For me, this represents a compelling moral case for a compensation fund to be established using the gold that remains."

The Israeli delegation to the conference will be led by Bobby Brown, adviser on Diaspora affairs to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and will include Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg and Knesset Finance and Restitution Committee chairman Avraham Herschson.

Marilyn Henry contributed to this report.

The Jerusalem Post

n riot



Nabbus. Thousands of people destroyed.

an Israeli jail which was published in Palestinian newspapers yesterday. In it, she appealed to her brothers and sisters to help her and other prisoners and not to despair. I have no other choice but freedom or martyrdom.

be team

only denied that any early elections are in the offing and the last night of the election campaign will be held on Saturday, 2000.

The Likud statement came in response to a decision by the Labor government committee last Thursday to hold a party on the election day. The Likud spokesman said that the Labor government had not taken any steps to ensure that the election day party would be held in a safe and secure environment.

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HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Ambiguous intentions

The escalating talks about a second redeployment plan, and statements released by some Likud members regarding the inevitability of the establishment of a Palestinian state last week, prompted media speculation regarding Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's intentions.

"One morning we will wake up and find ourselves without the Golan Heights or Judea and Samaria and with a partition agreement in Jerusalem," writes Yediot Aharonot's Uri Orbach, dreading the idea that secret negotiations are currently under way with the Palestinians. "Perhaps Bibi is unsuitable, but he might do something big in order to appear in the history pages. I do not trust that he will do the right thing."

Ma'ariv's Ben Caspit reveals that in an interview Netanyahu said, "The Palestinians will receive contiguous territory."

This stands contrary to government policy, and was later denied by his spokesman, Shai Bazak. He does not know what he wants, claims Caspit, and "continues to squint, hide and deny on his way toward a distant, vague goal."

Yediot's Amos Keinan refers to MK Meir Sheerit's unequivocal statement regarding the necessity of establishing a Palestinian state while the Likud is in power. "Meir Sheerit, a bad boy, is the stuff that rebels are made of. I have no idea what will become of him, perhaps only history will mark that his statement was the beginning of the Likud's fall from power."

Oren Shohar in Ma'ariv believes that Netanyahu's new suggestion is a "bluff for propaganda and external reasons, more than a real attempt to find solutions." He adds that the attempt to find a new idea to substitute for the Oslo agreements "will lead us to a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state by Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat."

The future

The new centrist party, initiated by businessman Ron Pe'er and which is believed will eventually be run by Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo "will only become active with the right timing," writes Ma'ariv's Sima Kadmon. "This timing will become appropriate once the government falls and the politicians seek a warm and suitable home." She adds that it is clear to Pe'er that the party will help bring down the current government.

Orit Shohat in Ha'aretz says a centrist party lacks a constructive

role: "Everyone deceives the voter [before elections] and a centrist party deceives a bit more," she writes, adding that the party "only exists because of the symbiotic connection between the lazy politician who does not work hard enough to fit into an existing party and the opinionless voter who is too lazy to think."

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid says Milo could mainly rely on the Likud deserters to join his party, but "how many mandates could a centrist party which disagrees with the Right and agrees with the Left gain?" he asks, adding that if the voter's decision is apparently between the Left and Right, "there is no point in voting for the Center."

Lebanon controversy

The inaccurate leak of OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine's alleged statement that he is in favor of a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon "revealed the big secret: there are

disagreements in the IDF on the tactical level regarding southern Lebanon," writes Ma'ariv's Ofer Shelah. He adds that the revelation refutes what was thought of as a consensus in the army. "We have learned that it is allowed and legitimate to keep an open mind about Lebanon..."

Ha'aretz's Zvi Barel claims that the army will eventually decide in the Lebanon case. "Due to the incompetence of the political arena, IDF will become a decision maker with political consequence."

Livnat's return

Following Communication Minister Limor Livnat's overt attack on Netanyahu and her leading role in the rebels' plotting to overthrow him, "she has shrunk into the dimensions of a walling kitten," writes Yediot's Silvy Keshet, referring to Livnat's decision to remain in the government after all.

German family will return art — if it was stolen by Nazis

BOSTON (AP) — If the Nazis stole a valuable 17th century painting during World War II, it will be returned or donated to a museum, the owners said, after the painting was withdrawn from auction.

Peter Henle, son of German collector Guenther Henle, said in a letter to Sotheby's London branch that his family would look for the victim and return the painting if it was stolen.

The painting was to have been auctioned at Sotheby's next week.

The letter was released to The Boston Globe, which first reported about the painting's dubious ownership background a week ago.

Should the victim turn out to be Jewish with no descendants, the letter said, the 17th century painting, "A Dune Landscape with Two Figures by a Fence," by Jacob van Ruisdael would be donated to an appropriate museum or gallery in Israel," Henle wrote.

If no evidence of Nazi looting exists and no victim can be found, the family would meet again "to settle the disposition of the picture," he wrote.

The Globe reported last week that Sotheby's had listed the painting with a catalog notation that showed it had been acquired for the Linz Gallery, a museum that Hitler had planned to build in Linz, Austria.

Guenther Henle, an industrialist and political architect of the postwar Christian Democratic government in Germany, bought the painting in 1961 from Amsterdam dealer Pietre de Boer, who helped the Nazis obtain more than 300 paintings during the war.

The director of Washington's National Jewish Museum, Ori Z. Soltes, said if no victim is found and no clear history of the painting emerges, "he doesn't see how

the family could sell it with a clear conscience.

But Soltes, whose museum has made a project out of searching for art stolen by Nazis, said the Henles' effort "is as correct as one could hope for, and reflects a sensitivity for rapprochement."

Marilyn Henry adds from New York: Meanwhile, the second Jewish organizational venture to recover Nazi-looted art — the Commission for Art Recovery, created by the World Jewish Congress — is expected to start operating in January.

In September, the National Jewish Museum in Washington started the Holocaust Art Restitution Project to document and publish Jewish cultural losses.

Previously, individuals and institutions were left to their own devices to recover art, an expensive endeavor that many were forced to abandon for lack of organizational support and financial resources.

Lithuanians promise to press genocide investigations

VILNIUS (AP) — Lithuania's top prosecutor promised on Thursday to press ahead with investigations into genocide cases in the Baltic country, but said these should not only be limited to Nazi killings of Jews.

Prosecutor General Kazys Pednycia said genocide investigations should also focus on the persecutions of Lithuanians after World War II by the Communist rulers of the nation. Thousands of Lithuanians were deported to Siberia in those years.

"Of course, there were Jews who suffered from Lithuanians. But there were also just the opposite cases, and we all know that," the Baltic News Service quoted Pednycia as saying.

Pednycia accused prosecution officials of dragging their feet in genocide investigations, and said a new Office of Special Investigations was set up last summer after the previous one "engaged in no one knows what."

The chief prosecutor cited an investigation into the massacre of Jews in a Kaunas garage in 1941, which has been closed for lack of

evidence but was recently reopened.

"I was horrified when I saw what a negligent approach has been taken toward this case in recent years," he said. Pednycia promised significant results in genocide cases as early as next year, BNS reported.

The issue is sensitive in Lithuania, whose leaders have been criticized for lack of progress in such cases. In September, Israel's ambassador to Lithuania caused a storm when he accused the nation of failing to fulfill its promises to trace and bring to justice those involved in killing Lithuanian Jews.

The Nazis and their Lithuanian collaborators wiped out almost the entire Jewish community in Lithuania, some 200,000 people.

Lithuanian lawmakers said the ambassador's criticism was improper. Nonetheless, President Algirdas Brazauskas responded by promising to remove some procedural obstacles, urging parliament to speedily discuss amendments to genocide laws and criticizing Lithuanian courts for dragging out the related cases.

On Wednesday, 30 members of

the US House of Representatives, sent a letter to Brazauskas, protesting foot-dragging in the prosecution of Nazi war criminals living in Lithuania.

The letter also protested the fact that although the "rehabilitation" of Nazi collaborators was rescinded by the Lithuanian parliament, these pardons have been actually cancelled in only a few cases.

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Arafat to UN: Give PA full membership

Annan sends message marking partition

In a message delivered at Tel Aviv celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the 1947 UN partition resolution, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the hardest decisions stemming from the partition resolution still lie ahead, and he urged renewed efforts to reach the goal of peace.

The message, delivered on Annan's behalf by the director-general of the UN office at Geneva, Vladimir Petrovsky, said the vote on the partition plan, following a period of intense debate, "was one of the most agonizing in United Nations history."

"But the plan was not accepted by the Palestinian Arabs and Arab states. Over the following decades, the region was the scene of several major wars, not to mention countless acts of violence and tragic incidents which produced suffering, anger and bitterness on all sides."

Annan said Israelis and Palestinians showed admirable courage in joining the negotiations launched in Madrid in 1991 and later in signing the Oslo accords.

"We must continue to build on these historic steps which, like Israel's peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, are founded on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338," he said.

"Regrettably, recent developments have sparked concern that the peace process is in jeopardy. Horrifying acts of violence against innocent civilians have occurred, including in Tel Aviv, the center of so much of the country's life. The day-to-day reality of too many people in the region continues to be one of insecurity, destitution and despair."

"Tonight's festivities are a time of celebration and affirmation for the State of Israel and for Israelis everywhere," he continued. "They



David Ben-Gurion declares the state's independence in this file photo from May 1948. At a reception last night at the same location, now known as Independence Hall, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo hosted ambassadors of the 33 UN member states who voted in favor of the 1947 resolution that led to the declaration of independence. The reception was one of several events held in the city last night to mark the resolution's anniversary.

should also serve as a reminder that the vast majority of Israelis and Palestinians yearn for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution that would enable them to coexist in peace."

"As the two sides continue their difficult but inexorable moves toward a final settlement, we must exert every possible effort in support of this shared, long-held goal."

Meanwhile, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat called

on the UN yesterday to give the PA full membership in the international body.

"We hope for your support for the Palestinian's fair demand to enable Palestine to completely participate in the works of the United Nations organization," Arafat said in a message carried on the Palestinian news agency Wafa, to mark the partition resolution anniversary and the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

"Such complete participation will reinforce our sincere efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East," Arafat said.

The Palestinians have an observer at the UN.

Annan will also deliver an annual message on Monday to a meeting at the UN marking Palestinian solidarity day. The day, proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1977, is normally observed on November 29, the

date of the partition resolution. It is being marked this year on December 1 because the anniversary fell on the weekend.

In Jordan, the spokesman for the Hamas movement, pledged to continue to oppose Israel and the peace process.

"For half a century this conspiracy has passed and the resistance of our Palestinian people has not stopped," Ibrahim Ghosheh said, in a statement faxed to Reuters in the Gaza Strip.

NEWS

in brief

Fire in Haifa phone dump burns six hours

A large fire broke out yesterday afternoon at the Vulcan junction in the Haifa Bay area, in a dump containing old phones and phone cables. It took firefighters six hours to control the blaze, which sent a thick cloud of smoke across Haifa Bay. The burning plastics also emitted gases, but the Environment Ministry determined they posed no danger to the public. Firefighters were expected to remain at the site all night to make sure the fire did not restart.

MDA holding course for PA medics

Magen David Adom will hold its first course for Palestinian medics and ambulance drivers. The three-week, Arabic-language course will open today at the Holyland Hotel in Jerusalem. Some 25 people are to participate.

Dr. Fathi Arafat, head of the Palestinian Red Crescent, had asked MDA president Dr. Shlomi Antebi for help in training Palestinians for ambulance services. The course will include basic training in driving an ambulance, its equipment, resuscitation and first aid.

AIDS seminar today

To mark World AIDS Day, which will be held tomorrow, a seminar on AIDS will be held today at Kfar Hamaccabiah from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., sponsored by the National AIDS Steering Committee. The lectures will include information on new treatments, including the drug "cocktail" that makes AIDS more a chronic disease than an acute one; patients' rights; the economic and social implications of the disease and the refusal of some health funds to supply the medications AIDS patients need.

Red Cross mulls other official symbols

The council of delegates of the International Red Cross decided yesterday for the first time that the status quo allowing only two official symbols – the Red Cross and Red Crescent – could be ended. However, in meetings in Seville it was decided that a committee discussing the issue would have to deliberate over a period of two years.

Health Ministry and other representatives at the conference had mixed feelings about the decisions, as Magen David Adom's symbol has not been recognized, preventing Israel from becoming a full-fledged member rather than just an observer. The possibility of replacing the two existing symbols with a red diamond was mooted, but nothing will be decided for another two years, said MDA sources.

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Political chaos after India government quits

By DEXTER FILKINS

NEW DELHI (Los Angeles Times) — India's fourth government in two years has collapsed, ending a shaky, short-lived coalition and heralding a new period of political chaos.

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral resigned and his United Front government fell on Friday, after the Congress Party, a key ally of his coalition, withdrew its support. Gujral lasted seven months.

His government had been tottering for weeks, since an investigation into the 1991 assassination of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi revealed that a party in Gujral's coalition had links to Gandhi's killers.

It was not immediately clear whether any party could patch together enough support in India's parliament to form a new government — or whether fresh elections were on the way.

Analysts said possible outcomes included a sharp curbing of India's 6-year-old effort to dis-

mantle its socialist economy, and the ascension of a Hindu nationalist party with a history of exacerbating Hindu-Muslim tensions.

Yet the most likely scenario, they said, was a continuation of what the country got under Gujral: a weak, unstable government unable to gain enough support to act decisively.

"The political system is in total disarray," said Bhabani Sengupta, director of the Center for Studies in Global Issues, a New Delhi think tank.

"Governments are collapsing because none of the parties can manage to work together."

Right now, no party has a majority in India's lower house of Parliament, the 545-seat Lok Sabha.

Power is divided roughly among the Congress Party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, and the parties that make up the United Front.

The Congress Party had demanded that Gujral drop one of the members of his 13-party coalition, the DMK, which a

recent investigation linked to the Tamil guerrillas who murdered Gandhi in 1991.

The Tamils, an ethnic group in southern India and Sri Lanka, have been fighting a guerrilla war for independence in Sri Lanka since the early 1980s.

Gujral, a deliberative man with a reputation for uprightness, said he thought the evidence against the DMK was thin. He wouldn't budge, and the Congress pulled the props out from under his government.

"The Congress Party has not allowed the Parliament to function," Gujral wrote in his resignation letter.

Gujral's resignation capped weeks of sometimes uproarious political infighting as the crisis fueled by his weakening leadership spread throughout the country.

In a dispute in the state parliament of Uttar Pradesh in October, rival politicians beat, bloodied and threw furniture at one another before millions of television viewers.



India's caretaker Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral holds hands in solidarity with United Front Coalition partners at a press conference held in New Delhi yesterday a day after he quit following the resignation of a key party from his coalition. (Reuters)

Fox hunt on the way out in Britain

By WILLIAM S. MONTALBANO

LONDON (Los Angeles Times) — In a dramatic showdown between town and country, the British Parliament demanded the death sentence for "Tally Ho." Hunting with hounds should be criminalized, the House of Commons voted 411-151 on Friday, after debate fraught with passion and history.

The spectacle of red-coated riders and packs of hounds coursing through the winter countryside is likely to survive another year or two, but the vote means that it may not outlast the millennium.

Legislators, most from the ruling Labor Party, had zeroed in on fox hunting, for centuries an English countryside tradition at once cherished and reviled.

"The unspeakable in full pursuit of the unspeakable," said playwright Oscar Wilde back in the days when it was mostly the rich upper class that rode to hounds.

In the last half-century, opponents have tried repeatedly to ban hunting, a pillar

of the landed gentry. Once, the main Labor objection was that the sport was elitist. These days, it is animal rights advocates who lobby hardest against the use of dogs to hunt deer, fox, hares and minks.

Despite the vote, the debate is far from over, and it reaches far beyond the countryside and deep into the British ethos. Both sides invoke the national love for sport and animals, for tradition, fair play, personal freedom and tolerance.

"The prevention of cruelty to wild animals is the main issue," said 34-year-old legislator Michael Foster, who sponsored the bill calling for an \$8,500 fine and up to six months in jail for those who defy the ban. "This historic vote makes it inconceivable that hunting will survive this Parliament."

Labor came to power last spring with a hunting ban as one of its platform promises. But Friday's bill was presented by Foster, and not directly by the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"Private member's bills," as they are called, are not formally supported by the government, and many never become law because governments are loath to spend precious debating time on issues outside their own key legislative objectives.

That is why Friday's vote will not bring about a ban before Blair is ready. He has a mandate to rule until 2002 and may be unwilling to take the rural wrath a ban would provoke.

Blair, who is traveling in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and half a dozen other senior ministers were not present for the vote, but the prime minister issued a statement saying the issue is "open to review for the future." Animal rights advocates, though, immediately portrayed the vote as an irreversible success.

"I don't see how the government can be dissuaded from a ban."

Before the end of this century, hunting will be in the history books where it belongs," said Kevin Saunders of the League Against Cruel Sports.

In Britain today, about 215,000 people hunt as part of 214 hunting organizations. Supporters say their sport provides work for around 15,000 people, generates around \$275 million and is the heart of the social life of rural England.

Throughout the country, however, the ban has wide support: 65 percent in a recent poll, including 57% in rural areas. Cruelty is central to the debate.

Says anti-hunt campaigner Saunders, "We must not tolerate something like 100,000 animals being tortured as a form of entertainment." Supporters believe that hunting is an effective and humane way of culling and conservation.

"We conserve by protecting the balance of nature," says John Gummer, a former environment minister. Hunting, he says, is "the least cruel method of keeping that balance."

The magazine *The Economist* notes that each year in Britain 100,000 foxes are run over, 40,000 are shot, and 17,000 are killed by hounds in hunts.

Russia calls Bonn spy-arrest news a 'provocation'

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) said yesterday an announcement that two people had been arrested in Germany on suspicion of spying for Moscow was a "provocation."

SVR spokesman Yuri Kobaladze said he believed Friday's announcement by German prosecutors had been timed to precede informal talks between President Boris Yeltsin and Chancellor Helmut Kohl near Moscow today.

"The German federal prosecutor's announcement of the arrests of two German citizens suspected on spying for Russia on November 19 and 26 can only be described as

a political provocation," he told *Izvestia* news agency. He made clear he was commenting on the timing of the announcement rather than the arrest itself or the validity of the charges.

The German prosecutors said one of the men, identified only as 47-year-old Bernhard N., had worked for a leading aerospace company and provided installation and manufacturing details about a transport plane.

They said the man had passed on details to Wolf L., an intelligence officer who worked for the Soviet Union's KGB security police and later for the SVR.

Presidential press secretary Sergei Yastrzhembsky told reporters yesterday that Yeltsin and Kohl would discuss a number of issues including some "difficult problems."

He did not say if these problems included the arrests. Bonn said yesterday the issue would not be discussed.

"Espionage will not be a topic of the meeting between the chancellor and the president," a spokesman for the German government said in Bonn.

Kohl and Yeltsin, who will meet at a country residence, are expected to discuss German-Russian

relations and the prospects for holding regular three-way meetings between Bonn, Moscow and Paris and developing ties between the three countries.

They are also likely to discuss the standoff between the United Nations and Iraq over weapons inspectors, Bonn's demands for the return of art treasures taken by

Soviet troops after World War II and German concerns about Russian criminal groups.

Bonn has accused Russian intelligence services of stepping up their activities in Germany. A report by Germany's counter-espionage body released in April also said their methods were occasionally reminiscent of the Soviet KGB.

30 killed in 2 days of Algerian unrest

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Attackers disguised as policemen killed 25 people at a roadblock in Algiers, doctors and residents said yesterday. The Thursday afternoon slaughter took place near the village of Souhane, about 50 kilometers south of the capital, Algiers, municipal employees said.

Fearing reprisal, they spoke on condition of anonymity. The attackers intercepted several cars

on a highway outside Souhane, slitting the throats of 18 men, three women and four children. Two people were wounded by gunfire while they fled; survivors were hospitalized in the town of Tablat.

In an incident Friday, doctors and residents said attackers tied up four construction workers, slit their throats, then set the corpses on fire near El Affroun, 30 kms. southwest of Algiers.

Seven people also were wounded Friday in the El Affroun region.

Meanwhile, a bomb that exploded Friday afternoon near Tipasa, 240 kms. west of Algiers, killed one person and wounded two others, hospital sources said.

About 75,000 people have been killed in violence between Islamic militants and government security forces since Algeria's insurgency began in 1992.

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Iraq protests U-2 spy plane overflight

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — Iraq said a US U-2 spy plane flew over its territory again yesterday, the official Iraqi news agency INA reported. "The American U-2 spy plane hovered again today in Iraqi skies to carry out provocation and espionage activities," INA said. INA, quoting an official spokesman, said the plane entered Iraqi skies at 9:20 a.m. local time flying at high altitude beyond the reach of Iraqi air defenses.

"Iraqi systems and air defenses have been monitoring the plane since its entrance up to its exit. Let it (the plane) be followed by curses," the spokesman said.

Iraq has said it would shoot down the plane if it flew within the range of its air defenses. It has also demanded that the United Nations replace the American spy plane with aircraft from other permanent members of the UN Security Council.

"If the Americans think that they with their devilish and ugly acts can scare the great Iraqi people or exert pressure on its leadership to give up the legitimate rights of the Iraqi people, they will once again immerse themselves in bad dreams which are impossible to realize," said the spokesman.

Iraq also agreed yesterday in principle to

an extension of its oil-for-food deal with the UN, a spokesman for the Iraqi Culture and Information ministry said.

"Iraq does not object, in principle, to the renewal of the agreement for (selling) oil in return for food, medicine and other humanitarian needs with the United Nations," the spokesman said, according to INA.

The spokesman said Baghdad still viewed the deal, which allows Iraq to export oil worth \$2 billion over six months, as a temporary measure and not a substitute for the removal of all curbs on the country's oil exports.

A UN spokesman in Baghdad said

Thursday that Iraq was not willing to renew the deal until issues related to the approval of contracts, delivery of supplies and letters of credit were solved. The deal first came into effect in December last year and was renewed by the UN Security Council for another six months from June 8.

The current phase of the plan expires on December 5. For each phase of oil exports Iraq's government has to prepare an aid distribution plan which must be approved by the United Nations.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's defense minister said yesterday he would welcome the import of gas masks to protect the popula-

tion against chemical and biological weapons.

"The ministry welcomes any offers to import gas masks to Kuwait," the deputy premier and defense minister, Sheikh Salem Sabah al-Sabah al-Sabah, told the official Kuwait News Agency.

He also said the tiny state, which has a population of 2.15 million, "has no inhibitions on the import of gas masks" by private companies.

Kuwait troops and Western forces in the region are on the alert after a standoff between the Iraqi government and the UN over weapons inspections.

Czech PM may quit over finance scandal

By JAN SLIVA

PRAGUE (AP) — Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus suggested for the first time yesterday that he would step down after his government collapsed over a campaign finance scandal. President Vaclav Havel publicly urged him to quit.

Half the Cabinet resigned as two of the three parties in Klaus' governing coalition said they were quitting.

Havel went live on national radio to urge Klaus to follow suit. "The only meaningful solution is the fastest possible resignation of the entire government, headed by its premier," said Havel, 61, widely regarded as his nation's moral authority.

It was the first time the president had taken a firm public stand in months of pressure for Klaus' resignation, which built to breaking point this week as it was revealed the premier's party took a hefty donation from a businessman who had just acquired a large stake in a steel firm privatized by Klaus' government.

Havel is recovering from pneumonia, and spoke with heavy breath, in a slow, halting voice. He said he would invite leaders of all three coalition parties to his country residence of Lany today for talks.

"The new government should be a government with the support of the present three coalition parties," Havel said.

He said he would ask the present government to keep working until a new government is formed, but failed to indicate who he favored as premier.

Earlier, Klaus dashed back from a Central European summit in Sarajevo to try and resolve the crisis. Speaking to reporters, he publicly mentioned he might step down.

"I am not deaf or blind," said Klaus, insisting however that he knew nothing about his party's scandalous financing before this week.

The Czech Republic and the party do not "stand or fall" with Vaclav Klaus, he added.

Earlier Saturday, the small Civic Democratic Alliance said it was quitting Klaus' cabinet. Late Friday, the Christian Democrats had announced they were pulling their four ministers — including the key defense minister — from Klaus' government.

The Christian Democratic leader, Josef Lux, a vice premier to Klaus, is touted as a possible successor. He has hinted several times in recent months that he wanted Klaus out.

Another possible premier is the current finance minister Ivan Filip. The non-partisan governor of the national bank, Josef Tosovsky, is also thought acceptable to Havel.

Interior Minister Jindrich Vondra, a member of Klaus' party and his close ally, told "Nova TV" Friday that the prime minister was "probably the last person" to know about the scandalous donation. "But as party chairman he is responsible for everything that happens."

Nations to debate environmental 'insurance policy'

By CHARLES J. HANLEY

KYOTO (AP) — Representatives of 150 nations are converging on this city of ancient temples to negotiate a 21st-century insurance policy for the planet, a deal to control energy use as a first installment on protecting the atmosphere against global warming.

The talks are highly technical and complex, the politics challenging.

"There are times when only an act of courage can spur progress in world affairs," UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in wishing the conference success as it opens tomorrow.

Chief US negotiator Stuart E. Eizenstat predicted a "movable feast" of hard-fought compromises.

If successful, the 10 days of negotiations could lead in a decade or so to shifts toward new-technology automobiles and fuel-saving driving habits, away from coal-powered electricity plants, and toward new farming and forestry practices.

Such controls over carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases could, in turn, begin to forestall the damaging rises in temperatures, sea levels and severe weather that scientists predict from global warming.

But almost every feature of this plan — including who should pay, how and when — is in dispute. And powerful opposition has developed against early action, especially among oil-producing countries and US coal, oil and other interests likely to be hurt.

Industry lobbyists are among the thousands of diplomats, scientists, environmentalists and journalists assembling in Japan's old capital in the midst of unusually mild weather that has Japanese fretting that "global warming" may ruin their Winter Olympics in February in Nagano.

But the vagaries of any day's weather cannot be attributed confidently to global climate change. And this imprecision among scientists has weakened the hand of those trying to combat the phenomenon.

At the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil, the world's nations

signed a Climate Change Treaty that, because of US opposition, set only a voluntary goal: reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2000.

It soon was clear most countries would miss that goal, and in 1995 governments agreed to toughen the treaty by negotiating legally binding targets and timetables. Several preliminary rounds of talks laid the groundwork for final discussions here over a treaty protocol.

The underlying principle of climate change is undisputed: Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and a few other gases, mostly from fuel combustion, are transparent to incoming sunlight but trap the heat that Earth emits back to space.

In 1995, as atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide stood about 30 percent higher than that of pre-industrial times, a UN-sponsored network of climate scientists issued a pivotal report, declaring that global warming was under way and man was apparently partly to blame. Global average temperatures had risen by up to 0.6 degrees Celsius in the past century.

The scientists predicted growing emissions would boost temperatures an additional 1 and 3.5 degrees Celsius by 2100, and raise sea levels 15 to 95 centimeters, inundating islands and shorelines, because the warmth would expand ocean volume and melt glaciers.

The warming also would shift climate zones abruptly and make regional weather wetter, drier and generally more turbulent, they said.

Critics have seized on the uncertainties of the projections to resist early action.

"There's a danger of having policy driven by the worst-case scenario," complained the American Petroleum Institute's William O'Keefe, chairman of the Global Climate Coalition, a US industry group that contends emission controls will throw hundreds of thousands of Americans out of work.

Environmentalists counter that even a degree more warming could be damaging — flooding much of low-lying, overcrowded Bangladesh, for example.



Refugees flee

Afghan refugees flee an area of the central province of Bamyan this weekend after Taliban forces imposed a food blockade on the opposition-led province, putting nearly 160,000 people at risk as winter approaches. The UN was planning an airlift of essentials to aid the refugees.

Panel: US should focus more on internal terrorism

By PAUL RICHTER

WASHINGTON — With two dozen nations holding deadly chemical and biological arsenals, the Pentagon needs to shift some of its resources from waging major wars abroad to defending against terrorist attacks that could kill thousands of Americans at home, a congressional chartered panel has recommended.

To address growing threats from renegade nations and disaffected domestic groups alike, the military needs to expand its role to include some traditionally civilian areas of responsibility — such as border control, disaster response and coordination of intelligence-gathering, the National Defense Panel says in a report due for release tomorrow.

The panel proposes setting up a "Homeland Defense Command" under the National Guard that could guide the military's response on these issues, and help

organize the patchwork overlapping responsibilities of various military and civilian agencies.

Without a quick change in the Pentagon's focus, in a decade "the military might be superbly prepared to fight the (Iraqi) Republican Guard, but very ill-prepared for these very real kinds of challenges," said one panel member Friday.

The nine-member panel, made up of retired military officers and experts, was charged by Congress last year with advising on needed strategies for 2010 and beyond. It concludes that what has long been considered the military's major strategic challenge — to be prepared to wage two big regional wars in rapid succession — is becoming a "low-probability scenario."

Yet America is increasingly vulnerable to weapons that are in the hands of smaller nations and renegade groups. These adversaries will increasingly be equipped to deliver chemical and biological

weapons, launch cruise and ballistic missiles, and use high-tech equipment to disable computer and communication networks that have become the national lifeline.

The United States has already suffered deadly attacks on the World Trade Center and the federal building in Oklahoma City.

"But what if the next Saddam infiltrated a number of (terrorist) teams into the country, striking the New York City subway, and then announced that they had people in many other places as well?" one panel member asked. In those circumstances, he said, the government would need the kind of huge response that would require the military as well as civilian agencies.

The new organization might take a role in such diverse areas as developing anti-terrorist tactics and equipment, national missile defense, civil defense medical treatment, hazard detection, anti-narcotics and even immigration control. Panel members believe

traditional limits on the military's role in domestic affairs should be observed, but they also believe the new threats may require a broader response that the military can help provide.

"The world is becoming smaller place, where more destructive weapons are in the hands of more people," a panel member said. "And that might require a more comprehensive response."

In remarks last month, Philip A. Odeen, the panel's chairman, warned of the risks of smaller scale attacks on the United States, including from ballistic missiles armed with chemical or biological weapons.

"There's been very little attention paid" to such problems, he said. And there was a "huge organizational problem" caused by the "rats nest of people involved" in any response to an attack on the United States, Odeen added.

Top Pentagon officials, beginning with Secretary William S. Cohen, who appointed the panel, have increasingly stressed the risks from the attacks of terrorist and smaller nations. But it is unclear how they, or Congress, would respond to any proposal that might shift important prerogatives from civilian groups to the military. (Los Angeles Times)

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הכרזה מן הרשמי

A prescription for success

By BOB THOMAS

Three years ago, he couldn't get a job as a movie actor. Now George Clooney, with three big-budget films under his belt, can't turn down the film offers fast enough.

Rarely has an actor risen so fast. It doesn't hurt, of course, that Clooney stars on TV's top-rated *ER* as the smoldering, sardonic Dr. Doug Ross. Unlike David Caruso, who pulled out of *NYPD Blue* after its first hit season to pursue feature films, Clooney has chosen to remain with *ER*.

After starting with the low-budget comedy-horror *From Dusk Till Dawn*, Clooney has appeared in *One Fine Day*, a romantic comedy with Michelle Pfeiffer, and *Batman and Robin* as the Caped Crusader.

Now he's Lt. Col. Thomas Devoe, an intelligence officer who goes after terrorists who've stolen a nuclear device in *The Peacemaker*, co-starring Nicole Kidman and currently showing in Israeli cinemas. It's the first feature from Dreamworks Pictures, the long-awaited enterprise of Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen.

But there were no splashy photographs of Clooney at the New York premiere of *The Peacemaker*. After his scathing remarks about the paparazzi following Princess Diana's death, photographers refused to shoot photos of him as he strolled down the carpet at the Ziegfeld theater. It hasn't hurt the film at the box office, however.

With so much work on *ER* and feature films, Clooney says with a smile that he manages to get some shut-eye when he's driving to work. Besides that, he sleeps about four to five hours a night.

"I've been that way for about 15 years," he says. "I can't sleep eight hours."

The nephew of Rosemary Clooney, the popular singer of the '50s who co-starred with Bing Crosby in the classic film *White Christmas*, Clooney lived with his aunt for a time.

But, he admits, he never attempted to sing with her. "Rosemary is a pretty good singer," he says. "One thing I've always understood is, when you're around somebody who's better than you at something, you don't try to do it. And she's better at that, to say the least."

Having played several contemporary roles, Clooney says that if he were to choose a role in film history, it would most certainly be Rick in *Casablanca*. "You gotta put on the white tux jacket, sit around and have Sam sing 'As Time Goes By,'" he says.

Clooney is quick to admit that stellar status definitely has its privileges. "Opportunities become available to you, not just as an actor but as someone in the industry, producing and writing," he says. "I wrote a television script that never would have sold if I were just a writer. The best part is that things are available to you if you're willing to work hard enough."

As for the pitfalls, Clooney says they don't compare to how good the good things are. The worst thing, he says, is the complete loss of privacy.

"I live in a house on a hill that's completely secluded, and not a day goes by that in that seclusion, in those trees, there isn't someone. That can be very trying at times. We have to literally sweep the hills before we go into the swimming pool."

How quickly the paparazzi forgive and forget. (AP)



In 'The Peacemaker' George Clooney goes after terrorists who've stolen a nuclear device

Stockhausen: Like father like son

By MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

Markus Stockhausen is one of the most versatile musicians of our generation. The virtuoso German trumpeter player and son of renowned composer Karlheinz Stockhausen is as comfortable playing jazz as he is with classical music and is searching continually for various new ways to widen his musical and personal horizons.

While Stockhausen is very familiar with the classical concert in the repertoire, he seldom plays them. In fact, he does not play that much as a soloist with classical orchestras. So his current series of concerts with the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba is an exception to the rule.

But when Stockhausen is around, you can be sure he will not be satisfied with just the token classical concert, the one by Haydn on this occasion. Instead of also playing a piece by his father, he deferred to the Sinfonietta's request to play an Israeli contemporary opus, Yoram Leef's *Fanfares and Whispers*. "I have begun to like this piece," says Stockhausen. "It's quite interesting. It's a moderate piece, though; there is nothing revolutionary about it and I'm sure the audience will like it."

How does Stockhausen feel about combining Haydn with Leef, the classical with the very contemporary? "It makes a lot of sense. I always make a point of playing contemporary music, otherwise how will the new generation get used to this music? You have to give the composers a chance or there will be no future at all."

It seems that Stockhausen is not 100 percent happy with the fact that those contemporary composers who write for the symphony orchestra "don't try to break the tradition; rather, they work within it."

Stockhausen has decided to play less of his father's music in the coming years. "I need to investigate new things in my career and my life. This is a transition period for me and I'm about to embark on a journey towards myself. I think it would be wise for me to stay away from the father vibration and to feel in a more precise way what I'm about. My father is a very charismatic person with strong beliefs and ideas. When you are

around him, you cannot help but be influenced."

These days, Stockhausen concentrates on jazz and on free improvisation, which he enjoys immensely. But the major part of his time is devoted to meditative concerts "with my wife the dancer. I'm looking for spiritual things in the music. I like to play intuitively, and this is what I'm pursuing now."

Stockhausen is no stranger to Israel - its artists and music-lovers alike. In 1979 he was in Jerusalem playing concerts with his father. In 1991 he performed with his jazz ensemble in Tel Aviv.

But the most interesting Israeli connection occurred six years ago. "I was in London and was selected for a film. They needed someone who could speak German and play the piano."

The film was *Berlin-Jerusalem* by Amos Gitai, and Stockhausen managed to convince the director that he could write the score for the film as well. He has since written the music for two more Gitai films and may very well compose the score for Gitai's coming trilogy of films based on the cities: Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Does Stockhausen, who is so much immersed in the music of the here and now, still enjoy playing Haydn? "Very much so. It's a musical reference for me which I'm very happy with. It's like passing a graduation exam again and again." But the Haydn is not devoid of a contemporary touch. In 1985 Stockhausen asked his father to write two cadenzas for this concerto, which he has been playing ever since.

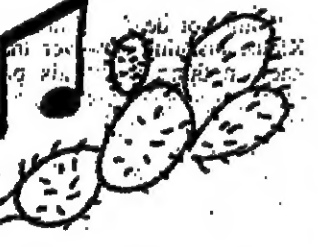
What will Stockhausen play as an encore if the audience demands it?

"I will probably improvise. When people hear this, they have no sense of time and mind; it's a little shock situation for them and I like to play with this. But it could also be something else. I always let myself be inspired by the moment and see what is the right thing for me to do."

Markus Stockhausen is the soloist in the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba concert series, playing the Haydn Trumpet Concerto, as well as Israeli composer Yoram Leef's *Fanfares and Whispers*. Monday in Beersheba and Tuesday at the Tel Aviv Museum.

A singer who dreams in Spanish

Sabra Sounds



By Emily Hauser

Shlomo Ydov is one of those artists you're likely to have heard often without ever knowing who he is. If you ever listen to local radio, you're familiar with "Holem Besfaradi" ("I Dream in Spanish") and "Yaldei Hayareah" ("Children of the Moon"), classics so well known that Ydov need not even mention that Ydov performs them. Now you have a chance to get to know the singer better, because he's just released a very good CD, *Pratim K'tanim*.

As the title suggests, this is not an

album of grand statements but rather a solid entry in the soft-rock field, a series of reflections on love, loss, memory - the stuff of life.

On several songs, Ydov teamed his prodigious music-writing talents with that of an unusual collection of lyricists, from alternative-rock icon Eran Zur through aging poet Nathan Zach. I particularly like the sweet, simple "Ahava" ("Love"), penned by Zur: "You have a woman who worries about you / And she chose you above all others / You're so happy to be alive / You're so happy because of her."

Interestingly, there is something about Ydov's own lyrics that invariably made me listen closely to those songs. Perhaps singing from his own experience brings out the best in him. This is especially true for the haunting "Lehisba'er Shafui" ("Staying Sane"): "Ever since you left, mother / I am torn from within / I sink into the depths / Can barely hold on to sounds."

Ydov immigrated from Argentina when he was 13, hence his slight accent and the Latin influence in almost all his songs. Now middle-aged, he wrote one of this CD's loveliest entries, the Spanish-language, "Como la Luna," when he first moved here; it's a love song for the girlfriend he left behind, so well-written that it still serves.

If I have one complaint, it's that some of the tracks on *Pratim*

K'tanim sound strikingly alike. It's perfectly reasonable not to make grand statements, but Ydov is talented enough to push himself a little further than he did here.

ZOHAR, ALIAS Eran Baron Cohen, is an Israeli-Welsh musician based in England. *Elokainu*, his first album, was created in the UK but is being distributed by NMC Records. An eclectic collection of influences including Japanese lullabies, Arabic chants, jungle and ambient music, *Elokainu* has been well received locally, and got a nice write-up in *Billboard*.

So why do I get cranky listening to this ambitious disc? Cohen is clearly talented and well-meaning. Virtually every song makes reference to the search for world peace, whether lyrically or through unexpected musical statements, such as the title track on which traditional Arab music is the backdrop for a cantor's chant.

I appreciate musical experimentation, but I can't help feeling that this album represents cultural misappropriation and disrespect, as much as it does coexistence. Go ahead and sharpen the impact of Jewish ritual by juxtaposing it with nonreligious Arab music. But mixing Gregorian chants with the

Moslem call to prayer ("Mantra")? These are distinct religious expressions and should be treated with the respect due them. Would Cohen bring a cross into a mosque?

"I do really like the drum-and-bass remix of 'Elokainu,' which manages to be far less ponderous than the original, as well as 'Freedom.' But here's another problem: 'Freedom' is powerful in no small part because of the Martin Luther King soundbite it boasts ('Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood'); so why is the great man not credited?

In fact, why are so few of the voices heard on this disc identified? Who is that cantor? Who are those monks? The only person consistently credited is Cohen himself, who, it must be noted, has a voice which tends to turn smarmy when it moves from background vocals to the lead.

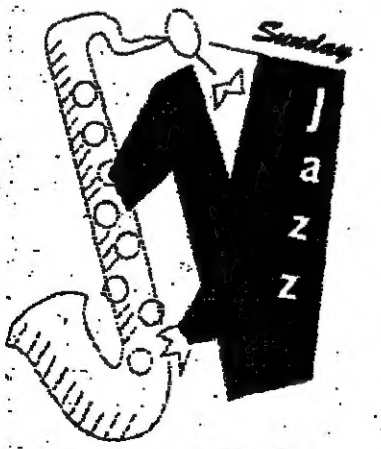
If you're a big fan of culture-hopping ambience, this CD may be for you. If not, however, you would be better off spending your money elsewhere.

DID YOU KNOW?
Q: Why does the Shlomo Ydov song "Como la luna" sound so familiar?
A: Because master lyricist Meir Ariel wrote Hebrew lyrics to it for mega-star Rita, who had a huge hit with the song.

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#2	2	27	EYAL GOLAN	WITHOUT YOU
#3	1	4	SPICE GIRLS	SPICE WORLD
#4	NEW	1	V/A	NOW 38
#5	11	8	THE VERVE	URBAN HYMNS
#6	19	83	RITA	TAHANOT BA ZMAN
#7	21	9	GIDI GOV	SONGS FROM LAILA GOV '2
#8	3	17	EVYATAR BANAI	EVYATAR BANAI
#9	5	13	BACKSTREET BOYS	BACKSTREET'S BACK
#10	7	40	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE
#11	9	3	V/A	600% PURE DANCE
#12	4	14	SHABAK SAMECH	B'YATFA SHIEL MAMTAK
#13	NEW	1	LEONARD COHEN	MORE BEST OF
#14	NEW	1	STING/POLICE	VERY BEST OF
#15	RE	1	PORTISHEAD	PORTISHEAD

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

Horace Silver polishes his old style



By Norm Guthartz

To update a cliché, you sometimes can tell a CD by its cover.

Horace Silver's latest has one of the funniest, least inhibited covers and booklets to come with a top-line artist's album. Playing on the concept of the album - and on the corny, feel-good holistic message he paraded through much of his work in the Seventies and Eighties - the designers have him suited as a pharmacist, with a "Dr. Jazz" logo right out of the repertoire of patent medicines and a prescription to listen to the album twice for speedy relief.

You'll want to listen more, though, because the playing is ter-

rific and the good feeling absolutely infectious.

Since experimenting with various kinds of lineups, he's returned to what made him one of the most popular post-bop pianists: funky, catchy compositions for which tenor sax and trumpet state the theme, after which the musicians get a chance to shine individually. For this date, Silver has assembled a sterling group - Randy and Michael Brecker, trumpet and sax, respectively, drummer Louis Hayes, who played on some of Silver's classic Blue Note albums, and bassist Ron Carter. They're pros who know each other's playing and know how to cook together, as well as contributing fine solos throughout. Carter, long the leading exponent of bass solos, inexplicably gets only one on this disc.

Silver is treading well-worn paths here; the all-new compositions are reminiscent of his 1950s

and '60s numbers, with much the same satisfying admixture of driving funk and Caribbean rhythms. But he made such wonderful music in those years that this comes as quite a recommendation. The funkiest item might be unintentionally so. "Vodel Lady Blues" was written as a country and western interpretation of the blues. I failed to see how, but it shouldn't bother listeners.

Likewise, "Free at Last," which draws its title and inspiration from Martin Luther King's famous 1963 speech, integrates some Middle Eastern phrases and even tickles the edges of "Bei mir bist du schön."

Silver is just as effective as player and composer on the soulful "Brother John and Brother Gene" and the brightly lilting 6/8 of "Sunrise in Malibu."

Silver, who has long been writing lyrics for his compositions, includes a booklet of those to accompany the numbers here, though nobody sings on the recording. Perhaps the motivation was that if you get bored with the music, you can sing along. But don't worry. You won't tire of this gem.



Dr. Jazz himself: The good feeling on Horace Silver's new album is infectious.

modern hieroglyphic. I couldn't be bothered to figure it out. It's as baffling as the music is. Not that this is experimental. That's a pity because Metheny is at his best when he's challenging his listeners. Much of this disc falls into the self-conscious, highly accessible atmospheric he's done with keyboardist Lyle Mays and their group.

The high-energy title track kicks

off the collection with riffs seemingly lifted from Yes and Weather Report albums of the early '70s. It's mesmerizing, which makes the lightweight "Follow Me" - with its catchy pop melody and treatment - a letdown.

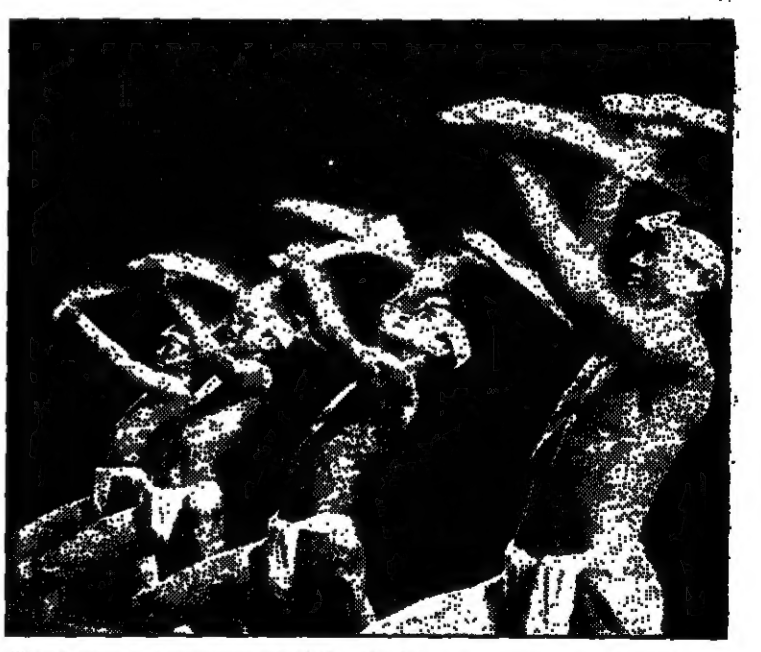
The rest of the album alternates between the exciting (a tension-filled fusion piece, "The Roots of Coincidence," is fired by Metheny's searing electric guitar) and the mundane (pop-inflected, grandiose "Across the Sky" is big on cymbal rolls and "Aaaaaah" background vocals).

Metheny and Mays rely too heavily on synthesizers, the magic music machines whose tricks are too predictable. Even Metheny's synth-guitar, with which he stirred and even bludgeoned listeners of *Rejoicing* (1983) and *Song X* (1985), is reduced to creating moody soundscapes where little happens.

There are some tracks of sheer beauty, like the softly bluesy "Too Soon Tomorrow," but "The Awakening" has too much of that pop-inflected, "new age" feel to make you want to do anything but go to sleep.

If you can do without crossover efforts masquerading as serious introspection, cross this off your list, or program your CD deck to skip the offending tracks.

Japanese dancers join the Jubilee



The 'demon drummers' of the Onkezo are among the attractions of the forthcoming year-long tour.

By HELEN KAYE

Hi is "yes" in Japanese, and we all know what "hi" means, so get ready to say both to a year-long Japanese invasion of very contemporary dance companies and music ensembles, which starts in February and is called "The Japanese season."

Top attractions - because they're more accessible to Western audiences - are likely to be choreographer Kim Itoh (due here in March '98) whose company won first prize at France's prestigious Bagnolet Festival last year, the Onkezo (next September), or "demon drummers" thought of as the spiritual parents of the Kodo drummers who took Israel by storm 18 months ago, and the fall-off-your-chair, hair-raisingly amazing Bach Collegium Japan (January 1999), an ensemble of singers and musicians who perform Bach, Handel and other great Baroque composers.

But those with open hearts and open minds will be just as rewarded by Trio Kokoo (March) who perform traditional and cutting-edge Japanese music on Japanese instruments, and by three more

marvelous and visionary dance companies whose inspirational springboards are *butoh*, the contemporary dance form that Sanzai Juku has popularized worldwide. They are Dairakudakan (June), Ariadone (March and April), the latest sensation to hit Europe, Dumb Type (to be announced), and Hakutoko, led by dancer, choreographer, designer and composer Tomoe Shizume.

Shizume, who formed his company in 1974, has expanded the *butoh* form to create his own dance language. They are the inaugural group for February.

"Israel appreciates our contemporary arts more than other countries which still prefer Japan's more traditional efforts, like Noh and Kabuki," says Japanese cultural attaché Yuri Kodera.

The Japanese/Israeli collaboration is the first of its kind, she stresses, and is partially in honor of Israel's Jubilee.

The \$1.25 million project will get logistical support such as airfares, air-cargo costs, and so forth from the Japan Foundation, a Japanese government institution. Venues have yet to be finalized. Tickets will be approximately NIS 90 to NIS 170.

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India: Rule by wrangle

Sonja Gandhi, the widow of the assassinated India prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, came originally from Italy and can only feel at home in the turmoil of Indian politics as yet another government collapses.

Coalition governments in India have never completed a full five-year term in office and the one that just resigned this weekend never looked like it would be the exception. Of the five that collapsed, four had the rug pulled from under them by the Congress Party within months of taking office. The coalition of Prime Minister I.K. Gujral has crashed on its face this time after only seven months in power.

The assassination of a prime minister is as traumatic in India as in any democracy — and that country has lost two leaders, Gandhi and his mother Indira, to terrorist bullets and bombs. The 1991 murder of Rajiv Gandhi has now come back to haunt the country six years later. A new controversy has erupted over responsibility for the assassination, leading the Congress Party to withdraw its support from the government. An official report accused one of the coalition partners of being soft on a Sri Lankan Tamil group suspected of the suicide bombing that killed Gandhi. The leaders of the complex 13-party coalition rejected a demand from Congress to dump the suspect party, the Dravidian Progressive Federation.

The powerful Congress has been dominated since before independence by the Nehru-Gandhi family and it is perfectly understandable that the party should be disgusted that a government coalition partner should have given Tamil terrorists free rein in Tamil Nadu, where Gandhi was killed. It is understandable that it should be outraged at the coalition's refusal to eject the Dravidians. But every time the Congress brings down a government in India, it is also hard to escape the suspicion that the act is malicious and that Congress believes it has some God-given right as the natural ruling party of India.

The judiciary's intervention report, which put the finger on the Dravidian Party, has given Congress yet another opportunity — eagerly seized — to pull down the props of government. Congress has been smarting since the 1996 elections gave it the most crushing defeat in its history.

A British prime minister once commented, "in a democracy, we know that from time to time the voters will demote us out of office." It's a simple maxim the Congress seems to have difficulty grasping. The fact that it ruled for most of India's 50 years of independence is not some divine sign it must rule for most of the next 50. The party was defeated for very good reasons — not only has it run out of charismatic and talented leaders like Nehru, Indira and Rajiv Gandhi, but by the end of its last term it seemed to have run out of ideas, morality and responsibility as well. This was a time for some deep philosophical renewal and a political makeover on the part of Congress — not for more vengeful wheeling and dealing against its opponents.

A month of political wrangling against the backdrop of Asia's growing economic crisis is not a luxury India can afford. The country has all but suspended serious economic, diplomatic, and legislative work while its politicians snarled at one another, the Congress carried on a campaign of disrupting parliament, and the rupee sailed downwards to historic lows against the dollar.

If all this were likely to bring India a new solid government, it might be acceptable political trauma. It isn't. The Congress Party may have shot the government, but it may have blown its own foot off in the process. There seems little chance of cobbling a new government out of the deadlocked mess in parliament — and Congress has less than 140 seats in the 545-seat lower chamber. That probably means an early election, a prospect dreaded by all major parties, who have only managed to keep their coalition together out of fear of the growing power of the right-wing religious nationalists.

Public opinion polls seem to indicate that the voters are disgusted with the antics of all their politicians and are lurching to the nationalist right. The Hindu nationalists, the Bharatiya Janata (BJP), are now the main opposition group. They have 162 seats from the last election and the polls point to them gaining more.

The Congress Party, still locked in self-delusion based on its past, seems to be edging towards a Gandhi long-shot — Sonja Gandhi. Having for long avoided politics, she joined the Congress as a member in May, raising the hopes of young party members that she is positioning herself for a leadership bid. The Congress has twice before converted public emotions over the Gandhi assassinations into political victory. It seems to be hoping that Sonja can wear the family magic spell over voters again. It is a long shot from a party without ideas. Though Sonja is popular, political opponents would make much political capital of her being a European foreigner, and will ask very loudly if a native-born Indian cannot be found to rule India.

But for the moment, the Congress seems more intent on gaining power without having to fight an election in which it would suffer a further mauling. The other parties of the United Front coalition seem intent only on cornering and humiliating the Congress. The average citizen might be excused for wondering who has any interest in governing the country and tackling its real problems.

WE HAVE TO ENCOURAGE THE INTERNAL ISRAELI DEBATE



Partition pragmatism

Today, fifty years ago, the Jewish yishuv celebrated the news that the United Nations had, the previous night, voted to approve the partition of Palestine into a Jewish and Arab state.

Partition was not an easy pill for the Zionist leadership to swallow. When the idea had first been proposed by the British Royal Commissions of the 1930s (the Peel and Woodhead commissions) there had been much heated debate within the Zionist organization. There were those who refused to accept any further partition of Palestine west of the Jordan River beyond that which had occurred in 1921, with the establishment of Transjordan by the British administration.

But there were also groups, including much of the Zionist leadership of the day, who were in favor of partition, arguing that it was more important to establish a state on part of the territory than to hold out for the whole of Palestine, in which case statehood may never come about. It was, eventually, the latter group that won the day, although the intervention of World War II meant that they had to wait a further 10 years before the partition debate became relevant again.

Accepting partition was, first and foremost, a pragmatic decision. This pragmatism was characteristic of the Zionist and, subsequently, the Israeli leadership right through until the Six Day War of 1967. Territorial compromise was always preferable to territorial irreconcilability, particularly if the former could bring about other long-term political gains and help stabilize Israel's position in the region.

This was as true of the Zionist leadership in the 1930s and late 1940s, as it was of the Rabin-Peres administration in the early 1990s. Possessing an undivided territory was never seen as an ultimate value in itself, but rather as an important strategic and economic resource which could be used as a bargaining pawn.

SINCE 1967 however, territory took on a new meaning within the movement. Gush Emunim, equally the current Likud government, have preferred to retain control of an undivided, non-partitioned, territory, than achieve conflict resolution in a smaller area. Had this policy been adopted fifty years ago, there would never have been a state in the first place.

It is surprising how many students of the Arab-Israeli conflict are unaware of the substantial differences between the partition boundaries as proposed by UNSCOP (the United Nations Special Commission on Palestine) and the actual boundaries which came about as a result of Israel's War of Independence. Had the Arab states accepted, rather than rejected, the partition proposal, there would have been an independent Arab-Palestinian state on a much larger territory than that which is claimed today in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Jewish state, too, would have had to cope with even more difficult boundaries than it had to at the end of the war. It has been suggested by some historians that

DAVID NEWMAN

Israeli political discourse. Territorial symbolism as evidenced in the notions of Greater Israel, of Judea and Samaria, replaced the pragmatic perspectives. These have dominated government policy for much of the past twenty years, making it almost impossible to arrive at any form of solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict based on territorial compromise and partition.

The West Bank settlement

Had Gush Emunim been in existence at the time of partition, the State of Israel would not have been established

The end of affirmative action?

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

As many liberals applaud the "settlement" of the Piscataway, N.J., affirmative action case, others wonder what this tactical retreat bodes for the future of race-based preferences.

The Piscataway case frightened supporters of such preferences precisely because it was so pure. The facts gave rise to a true test of whether race alone could ever be considered — even as a tiebreaker — in governmental hiring and firing decisions.

Two teachers who had been hired on the same day were essentially equally qualified, but one of them had to be discharged because of financial considerations. Instead of flipping a coin or making an arbitrary alphabetic decision, the school board decided to keep the black teacher because she was the only black teacher in her department and her retention contributed more to racial diversity within the faculty.

If that decision cannot be justified under the equal-protection clause of our Constitution, then no other form of race-based preference can survive constitutional attack.

Why, then, did the Black Leadership Forum — a coalition of civil-rights groups — blink at the prospect of a test case based on the facts of the Piscataway decision? Why did they pay the white plaintiff \$433,500 to keep the case from being decided by the Supreme Court?

Supporters of race-based affirmative action believed — probably correctly — that they did not have enough votes among the nine justices to win this case, and they feared a broad setback for all affirmative action programs. But the question remains: If race cannot even be considered as an "all-things-being-equal" tiebreaker, how can it be allowed to remain a dominant factor in giving significant preferences to blacks who are less qualified — at least by objective scores — than whites who are competing for the same jobs and schools?

There can be no factual dispute that most affirmative action programs deny race merely to break ties. Blacks who are admitted to highly competitive colleges, professional schools and graduate programs often have considerably lower scores than whites who are denied admissions. (Indeed, that is why we need affirmative action programs!)

How, then, can civil-rights groups, who believe that the Piscataway facts present a "hard case" that threatens to make bad law, pretend to believe that other race-based programs will be easier to defend and justify?

If race cannot be used as a tiebreaker in an otherwise legitimate decision to downsize, why can it be used as a significant factor — a plus for the black applicant — in an upzipping (or admissions) decision?

The real reason why civil-rights groups were so anxious to see the Piscataway case taken off the Supreme Court docket is precisely because it presented the issue of racial preferences so starkly. Most affirmative action programs try desperately to hide the ball by burying race in a morass of doubletalk and outright duplicity.

When the Supreme Court originally approved race-based affirmative action programs in university admissions, it prohibited explicit racial quotas. Universities were quick to deny that they were employing racial quotas, but many employed two-track admissions systems, under which the applications of black candidates were considered differently — sometimes by different committees — from applications of white candidates.

All of this was done with the best of intentions to increase the diversity of student bodies and faculties. But it was often done deceptively, to deflect both alumni outrage and judicial scrutiny. The goal of the deception was precisely to avoid a situation of the kind produced by the Piscataway case: a direct acknowledgment that race alone was ever the deciding factor. That is why the Piscataway case had to be kept away from the Supreme Court.

We may well be witnessing the beginning of the end for race-based affirmative action programs. The Piscataway settlement, the Supreme Court decision to decline review in the challenge to California's Proposition 209 which outlawed race-based affirmative action programs, and the general political trend away from support for such programs suggest that the days are numbered for an approach that helped to break the back of institutional racism.

The writer comments on public affairs.

(Universal Feature Syndicate)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HUMAN AND CARING

Sir: — The focus of your editorial (November 17) was the unselfish gift of organs donated by the family of seven-year-old Ali Jarawish, who "died after being shot in the head by a rubber bullet fired by an IDF soldier." However, you begin the article with every excuse for why this young child was killed. You call his death an "incident," a "mistake," the fault of the Palestinian police; "the willingness (of the Palestinian people) to allow children and youth to risk their lives in violent confrontations with soldiers." In your words, this is a "cynical violation of the sanctity of human life for political ends."

First, your editorial attempts to divert us from the facts. The shooting death of yet another innocent Palestinian child is a crime under every international treaty, specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention which is designed to protect children in armed conflict and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The IDF is the violator of the sanctity of human life. Indeed one of their soldiers pulled the trigger and shot Ali Jarawish in the head and killed him. The IDF is responsible for the death of this child.

Second, do you think that a Palestinian parent cares so little for his child that he would deliberately place him in harm's way? Or that members of the Palestinian police would turn their back on a seven-year-old child, leaving his fate to someone whose influence politics? Do you truly believe that the Palestinian community loves their children less than you love your own children? If the answer to these questions is yes, then we are at the core of a faltering peace process: the notion that "they" are less human and less caring than "we" are.

DR. NANCY DUBROW
Director, Taylor Institute, The International Child Welfare Group, Chicago, USA and United Nations Representative, The World Federation for Mental Health.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On November 30, 1937, *The Palestine Post* reported that a British constable was killed by an armed Arab band in Nazareth Hills.

A bus of the Hagalil Bus Company, traveling from Haifa to Safed was fired on from an ambush. Three Jews were wounded, two of them seriously. Shots were fired at the British Army base at Nablus and a bomb exploded in the Musara quarter of Jerusalem. No one was hurt.

At the first sitting of the newly-created Military Court in Jerusalem two Arabs were charged with carrying arms.

There was a lack of a quorum at Jerusalem Municipality because of the demonstrative absence of all Arab councillors and of two Jewish councillors.

50 years ago: On November 30, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that the plan for the Partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab States was adopted by more than two-thirds vote (33 yes, 13 no, 10 abstentions, one delegate absent) by the General Assembly of the UN.

The General Assembly appointed a Five-Nation Commission to carry out the plan and asked for \$2 million budget for implementation.

Britain abstained in the vote but London reiterated that it would accept the UN decision and would concentrate on the quick possible withdrawal from Palestine.

The representatives of the Arab States expressed serious disquiet following reports that King Abdullah's Arab Legion would occupy the Arab State sector following British withdrawal.

The voting came after a last-ditch effort by the US to prevent Partition by proposing the establishment of a federated state, based on the canton system.

There was unrestrained joy, merry-making, song and dance in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and other cities and villages as news flashed throughout the country.

25 years ago: On November 30, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Israel told the UN General Assembly that it was ready to negotiate peace without any preconditions, and was also prepared to engage in proximity talks to reopen the Suez Canal. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan warned that "the smell of gunpowder" wafting into Israel from Arab States might mean resumption of fighting.

Independent Liberal Party whip Gideon Hausner shelved for a year his civil marriage bill in order to give Chief Rabbi Goren time to settle cases of couples so far refused marriage by the Rabbinate.

The Supreme Court ruled that Common Era dates would henceforth be allowed on tombstones.

Alexander Zivli

Don't misjudge US Jews

DAVID WEINBERG

Last week, Albright even hinted outrageously that Israel is to blame for America's difficulties in getting together a Gulf coalition against Iraq.

Senior officials (Sandy Berger in the White House, Martin Indyk at State) further peddled this canard in *The New York Times*, and Clinton himself picked up on it.

Start blaming Israel unfairly, and the community will speak up loudly in Israel's defense

What started as a Jewish family fight has become a dangerous diplomatic game. The conversion bill dispute is now impacting negatively on ties at the highest government level between Washington and Jerusalem.

Indications are that Clinton Administration officials believe they've got enough slack from the upset US Jewish community to put the screws on Prime Minister Netanyahu. I say: beware of misreading the situation.

Start with the deep-rooted distaste for the Netanyahu government expressed openly by many, many American Jews. New Israel Fund direct-mail literature speaks of Israel with visceral revulsion as if it was fundamentalist Iran — and the Fund is doing fabulously well.

The demagogic rhetoric at play in radical Reform circles — both in regard to the "pluralism" issue and the peace process — is having a particularly corrosive effect. The Administration senses that there's a lot of distancing from Israel going on in the Jewish community, and feels that this paves the way for a new "get-tough" approach to Netanyahu.

Some Jewish power-brokers indeed are perfectly ready to countenance this, and have even counselled so. "We go for Weizmann's approach," one prominent Jewish leader told me. "Let the Administration knock some heads over there in Israel."

Indeed, Madeleine Albright's State Department appears more than willing to exploit the Netanyahu-Jewish rift in calculating the next Mideast peace moves. Over the past month, she has slammed Bibi over the plans to build in Eilat and increasingly blamed him directly for the peace process impasse.

the refrain too. And oh yes, Clinton has been much too "busy" to see Netanyahu, but he had plenty of time for Shimon and Leah.

THROUGH all this, the major Jewish organizations largely have been silent.

"The community is shell-shocked by the Reform-Conservative-Orthodox dispute," candidly admits one of Israel's top diplomats in the US. "Moreover, this Administration's top Mideast policy-makers themselves are liberal Jews who go to shul Friday night and take in the Leftist bad-mouthing of Israel that's in vogue. We're not sure who our partners are within the Administration in keeping a balanced perspective."

In addition to the political pressure on Netanyahu that this portends, other effects already are discernible. Cynicism has crept into the Administration's view of Israeli security concerns, such as responding to the looming threat of Iranian missiles with nuclear-tipped warheads.

Distancing leads to disdain, and from there to disrespect when dealing with us on a range of national security issues," says another Israeli who deals with the Pentagon and the US military. "This is not a good atmosphere."

I think the Administration is playing a risky game. Yes, the community's voice is muted at present because of the denominational recognition dispute — people are confused and questioning — but that's not alienation. Push too hard, or start blaming Israel unfairly — such as the cheap shot about responsibility for Gulf difficulties — and the community will speak up loudly in Israel's defense, in public and through Congress.

Albright would be foolish to read too much into the Jewish identity controversy. We'll re-emerge if she goes the Bush-Baker route," warns a leading community executive.

Albright would be well-advised to remember that the fundamentals of the Mideast peace equation haven't changed. Arafat still has to fight terror; Israel is at an asymmetrical disadvantage in the bargaining process — it gives tangibles for mere Arab commitments; and the Arab rejectionists are still out there and are re-arming.

A parting word to Vice President, and presidential hopeful, Al Gore. Of all people you have an interest in making sure no-one misjudges the current situation. Remember that Jews have begun to vote Republican lately — they supported Giuliani overwhelmingly in New York City, for example. Undue Administration pressure on Israel could hurt you the most.

The writer comments on public affairs.

At home with Lenny

AT THE AUCTIONS WITH NEW ARTISTS

Walk

A many liberal supporters of affirmative action are now questioning whether this policy is still necessary in the future of race-based preferences.

The President's new executive order, which directs the federal government to review its affirmative action policies, is a significant step in the right direction.

Two teachers who had been hired on the same day as one of them, and who were essentially equally qualified, because of their race, were not hired. Instead, the school board decided to keep the black teacher because she was the only one with a teaching certificate.

Why, then, did the Supreme Court in *Adarand* strike down the federal government's affirmative action program?

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, in his dissent, argued that the government's affirmative action program was unconstitutional because it discriminated on the basis of race.

There is a strong argument to be made that the government's affirmative action program was unconstitutional because it discriminated on the basis of race.

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At home with Lenny

AT THE AUCTIONS
WITH MEIR RONEN

Leaving this life is bad enough; leaving behind a luxurious home, library and a major art collection, not to mention one's loved ones, seems to me to add insult to injury.

Recent auctions have given us a peep, not for the first time, into the homes of the likes of Marlene Dietrich, the Windsors, and Victor and Sally Ganz. Next week, Sotheby's New York will auction the contents of the Manhattan home of the late composer/conductor Leonard Bernstein and his wife Felicia, on behalf of the Springate Corporation and the Bernsteins' three children. Part of the proceeds will go to the Bernstein Education Through the Arts Fund.

The contents of the Bernsteins' exceptionally beautiful apartment attest to the couple's intellectual interests, Lenny's sense of style, and Felicia's superb taste. Both loved life and all it had to offer. They were tremendous hosts; a party at their home was always an unforgettable event.

Leonard Bernstein (1918-90), pianist, conductor, composer, lecturer (and famously bisexual lover), was one of the outstanding musical personalities of this century. The auction catalog is filled with objects related to his musical life, many of them with modest estimates. Of note is his personally autographed Bosendorfer ebonyized semi-concert grand piano (\$60,000-\$80,000); a custom-made green and gilt harpsichord (\$10,000-\$20,000); and a wooden music stand that served as his composing desk (\$200-\$300).

The conductor's working library comprised some 1,000 volumes on music, literature, religion and philosophy (\$5,000-\$7,000), including 150 items of Judaica, among them a Talmud from Vilnius. Some of the books are inscribed by such world figures as Martin Luther King, Jackie Kennedy, Abba Eban, Elie Wiesel, and Chaim Herzog.

A number of historical musical manuscripts are also on offer, as is a collection of Bernstein's batons, including one thrown to a tearful audience at his last Carnegie Hall concert and later returned to his secretary and former piano teacher. One jeweled baton is reputed to have belonged to Toscanini.



Leonard and Felicia Bernstein at tea in their apartment



Yossi Stern's felt-tip drawing of Leonard Bernstein

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Bernstein's silk conducting attire and capes are also on offer, as are many photographs and drawings of himself, variously by Larry Rivers (\$1,500-\$2,000); Leroy Neiman (\$2,000-\$3,000); David Levine (\$1,500-\$2,000); and cartoonist Al Capp, creator of *Li'l Abner* (\$200-\$400). An oil of a carnival scene by Russian painter Konstantin Somov, which once belonged to Bernstein's mentor, Serge Koussevitzky, has the biggest estimate (\$40,000-\$60,000).

Lot 56, a signed drawing of Bernstein conducting, done with a pen by the late Jerusalem artist Yossi Stern (who had an intimate relationship with the conductor), is erroneously ascribed in the catalog to "American School, 20th century"; it is clearly signed, but in Hebrew (\$300-\$400). This is the first time I have found an incorrect attribution in a Sotheby catalog, but it is hardly earth-shaking. Sempa, the delightful Franco-Belgian cartoonist working in New York, is also termed "American School" in this catalog. A realistic crayon drawing of Bernstein conducting, by another Israeli, Shabtai Benaroyo, is correctly identified (\$400-\$600).

The 422 lots are to be offered on December 10 and 11. The sale is expected to raise over \$500,000.

LOCAL COLLECTORS of Hellenist and Roman glass will be interested to know that 33 lots of ancient glass sold by Sotheby's London last week, on behalf of the British Rail Pension Fund, brought a whopping £4m, twice the pre-sale estimate. A Roman colorless iridescent glass cup from 300 CE broke its own auction record at an unbelievable £2.3m.

SOTHEBY'S NEW YORK sale of impressionist and "modern" paintings last week brought \$92.7m, with Renoir's *Bather* doubling its estimate at a stunning \$20.9m. The second top lot was also a Renoir, *La Colifore*, which achieved an expected \$8.8m. The impressionist take for the week was a huge \$155.9m, proving that the market for good 19th-century works is as buoyant as ever.

At this sale, the Cezannes from the Pellerin collection sold for a total of \$9.2m, mostly at their low estimates, the best of which were just below \$6m. As predicted, a dancer by Vlaminck topped its best estimate at \$4.6m. In addition, Modigliani's reclining nude from the Sharp Collection, which did not achieve its reserve earlier this month, was sold by Sotheby's privately in excess of \$9m, well above its earlier estimate. It was clearly not suspect.

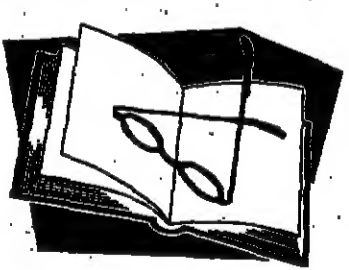
A VARIED and exciting sale of German and Austrian early 20th-century art will be offered by Sotheby's London on December 8 and 9, in tandem with its sales of Impressionist and Modern Art. Among the most striking expressionist/fauvist works on sale is a splendid head by Alexej von Jawlensky, painted in 1913, which should reach its top estimate of \$600,000. Later "Jesus" heads by this artist are also on sale. The *Blauwe Reiter* group is represented with a rich 1914 oil of horses and buildings by Heinrich Campendonk, which should also achieve \$600,000.

Fine paintings and prints by Nolde, Pechstein, Beckmann, Schmidt-Rottluff, Otto Muller, Gabriele Munter, Erich Heckel, Egon Schiele and Otto Dix are on offer. A landscape by Klimt is expected to achieve \$3m, and there's a particularly colorful and happy abstract gouache from 1928 by Otto Freundlich, the brilliant Jewish painter killed by the Nazis (£30,000-£40,000).

THE HIGHLIGHT of Sotheby's sale of American art in New York this week is a group of five turn-of-the-century paintings by John Singer Sargent, some of them set in Venice. Estimates range from \$3m-\$5m. There's also a delightful Edward Hopper, the first of his light-house paintings (approx. \$1m), made in 1912. And a 1912 Frederic Remington bronze of a cowboy being thrown from his pony has an estimate of \$2.5m-\$3.5m.

Walking on the wild side

Book Review



A look at the impact of AIDS in the gay art world resorts to kitsch tragedy and ultimately fails as a novel, writes Richard Eder

Nowhere have the depredations of AIDS been more visible than among communities of actors, writers, dancers, artists and musicians.

The arts, of course, are peculiarly fitted to make visible the vital preoccupations - in this case, the horror and anger - of those who exercise them. Many of them are gay, and it is one of the grievous ironies that the upsurge of gay themes in the 1980s, an artistic coming out of the closet, coincided with the start of a worse closing.

The news and the obituaries came almost at the same time. Allan Gurganus, author of the highly praised *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*, sets his new book, *Plays Well With Others* in the New York arts world of that time. It was a decade, as he depicts it, that began with a near-bacchanalian sense of freedom for gay artists and ended with their decimation.

Plays Well With Others (Alfred A. Knopf, \$25, 336 pp.) is an updating, in a sense, of Daniel Defoe's *A Journal of the Plague Year*, a novel in chronicle form about the great plague that devastated London in 1664. Gurganus traces Defoe's account throughout his book, which, like its predecessor, is a weaving of fact and fiction.

is Angie, a fiercely ambitious young painter, heterosexual, and eventually the only big success among the three. She too lusts after Robert, fruitlessly for the most part, though not entirely.

Love, in any case, binds the three of them closer than sex ever could. It is a characteristic of Gurganus' three main characters and of the gay-centered world he depicts, that sex and love not only have no obligatory relationship, they have an obligatory lack of relationship. This is estranging; it may fit the book's chronicle aspect but seriously weakens it as a novel.

Robert, Angie and Hartley are mutual confidants, gossipers, plotters and comrades in arms; they and two others - Gideon, a painter, and Marco, a free-form intellectual - are daily habitués at a table at Ossorio's, a downtown hangout frequented by old Cuban domino players.

There, they exchange the daily war stories of struggle on New York's cutting edge: sex (they are prodigiously promiscuous), careers and continual scrounging to make it until they make it.

By the end of the decade, four will be dead of AIDS, including Angie. Only Hartley remains, as burnt-out narrator. He has moved back to North Carolina, which, in his New York glory days, he had exulted in leaving; he alternates his account of those glory days with what followed them.

He has given up a literary career that had begun to flourish with a story or two in the New Yorker. His most important bit of writing, he tells us, is his address book. It is the ninth in a series recording the succession of phone numbers - from apartment to hospital to hospice to parents' home to cemetery office - of the rest of the table at Ossorio's, along with 16 other friends he nursed and buried.

diverges with that of Gurganus, who is also gay and who frequented the New York scene, had a modestly successful career (unlike his narrator's, it eventually took off), spent untold hours caring for dying friends and has moved back to North Carolina. Chronicle and novel co-exist but not successfully.

Gurganus does some things splendidly. Hartley's voice as he tells of sickbed vigils is witty and piercing. There are sentences that glisten like black opals. Here at the start is Robert, the former Adonis, in a half-coma and thin as "a haddock." His friends vainly play his favorite music, show him paintings he loved, perform skits: "Robert had lain silent for three weeks. This boy, so gently forward in life, now hid far back in a cave he must have told himself he was beginning to like. ...He lived beneath the manhole of a mask he left us on his pillow."

Hartley has rules for clearing out a dead friend's apartment. Bring garbage bags: four gross more than you think you'll need. Sort and discard fast. Learn where wills and address books are kept (the latter for the funeral invitations).

Gurganus' accounts of living poor in New York, of building a network of fellow strugglers, of swapping words of parties, free tickets, apartments and leads is masterly. So is his agonizingly knowledgeable portrait of a painter trying to break into the gallery world.

Angie, his painter, changes her name to Alabama - having in mind Thomas Lanier Williams, a far-removed cousin who went far after he called himself Tennessee. She is fierce, resourceful and generous, and ruthless at taking all possible ways up. She gets a bank loan to go to the same health spa as the

wife of a big gallery owner, makes friends with her and gets a show, rave reviews and a start on celebrity. There is parody here, of course, but it parodies reality. In any case, Angie is the book's most vivid and memorable character.

There are not many others, unfortunately. *Plays Well With Others*, good as it is in depicting the AIDS-stricken, fails as a novel. Gurganus and his Hartley attempt to make their story big enough to bear the weight of their message: AIDS' massacre of talent and lives in the gay art world and a proclamation of the beauty and bravery of that world.

Trying to do too much, perhaps, he falls into a sentimentality which frequently approaches soap opera, despite the wit of the writing. Robert, his golden lad, tomb of destroyed grace and talent, is an empty symbol. At no point do we see the allure that brings Hartley and Angie under his spell.

The account of Robert's one and only breakthrough - Aaron Copland conducts an impromptu rehearsal of his uncompleted symphony - is ludicrous. It is hard to evoke, fictionally, a work of genius; Gurganus gives us program music. The musicians, instead of sipping coffee during breaks in their parts, listen transfixed. The ushers, distributing programs, pause to do likewise.

Gurganus portrays his AIDS deaths as tragedy. In tragedy, death serves to give a dimension of grandeur to life; to validate and ennoble it. Gurganus uses AIDS to validate and ennoble the gay life.

But AIDS is something other than tragedy, and to write of it that way is to write failed tragedy, which is kitsch. If anything, it is closer to a holocaust, the obliteration of scorned innocents, though it lacks the monstrous human obliteration.

The German writer Theodor Adorno made the lapidary assertion that after the Holocaust, no art is possible, though he was only half right. After the Holocaust, only great art - think of Primo Levi, Paul Celan - is possible. Gurganus is a talented writer, but it isn't enough. (Los Angeles Times)

When greed replaces good management

Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Sometimes it only takes a small push to set off a chain of events that are of importance to millions of people.

For the American nuclear establishment this push came in late 1995, when Bob Pollard, a nuclear engineer who is active in the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) an American organization, received a packet of documents, sent anonymously. The documents detailed serious safety regulation violations at the Maine Yankee nuclear plant, in the northeastern US. After studying the documents thoroughly, Pollard was convinced that the documents were genuine, and that the whistle-blower who had sent them was highly placed in the plant.

Pollard handed the packet over to the official Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), asking them to investigate. One thing that had emerged from the documents was that officials at Maine Yankee had falsified safety analyses the previous year to get the NRC to grant them permission to increase their output by 10 percent. The NRC immediately canceled this permit and forced the plant to cut back, pending further investigation.

When the NRC sent its inspectors to the plant, they found a whole series of serious safety violations, some of which had existed for years. In 1996, the NRC served a notice citing the plant for 16 potentially disastrous safety violations.

The plant was closed temporarily in December last year to allow the problems to be solved, but this past May the plant's management announced that the plant would

not reopen. Maine Yankee's management had concluded that bringing the plant up to safety standards would simply cost too much. The years of corner-cutting and falsification of documents were over.

That, however, was not the end of the story.

Earlier this year, another set of documents arrived at the UCS office, which led to a completely new investigation by the NRC.

This time the target is a company that performs safety analyses and did engineering work for Maine Yankee and a number of other

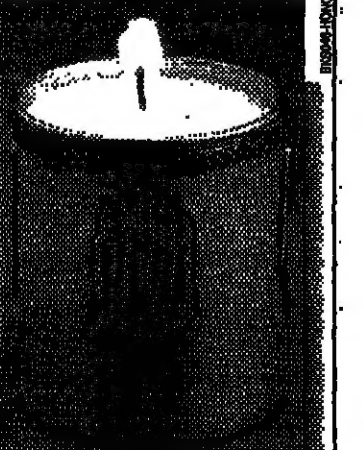
nuclear plants. Under investigation are this company's safety control systems and practices.

All of this demonstrates the degree of danger possible when greed replaces good management. Fortunately, nothing serious happened at Maine Yankee, but the safety inspectors were clear about one thing: Some of the deficiencies in the plant could have easily led to a serious nuclear disaster.

The investigations are not over, and charges may yet be filed against some of the individuals involved.

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Automatic fruit-sorting system replaces unskilled laborers

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

One can hardly think of a more boring job than manually sorting fruit, checking it for size, color, defects and overall quality. Eight hours of this for only one day at subsistence wages would send most people packing — but thousands of people here, nearly all women and some of them foreign workers, do it daily.

Now a local company has adapted infrared sensors and advanced computer technology to develop the world's first fully automated fruit sorter.

Uzi Eran, chief executive officer of Fruitec, says the Optigra II system pays for itself in less than two years. It allows automatic separation of fruit according to the grades one selects. One batch can go to Japan, which demands the highest standards and may sell a single apple for \$3, a different batch of a lower grade could be for Israel's domestic market, and a still lower grade could be sorted out for Russia, for example.

The four-year-old Dan region company is a subsidiary of El-Op, which develops electro-optical systems for military uses. The Optigra II sorting system was invented by a team of engineers and other scientists headed by Dr. Zvi Lev, who studied physics and mathematics at the Hebrew University and worked for El-Op and Israel Aircraft Industries.

Eran, 45, who farmed in his youth and now has degrees in industrial engineering, manage-

ment and business administration, has been CEO of the company for the last 18 months.

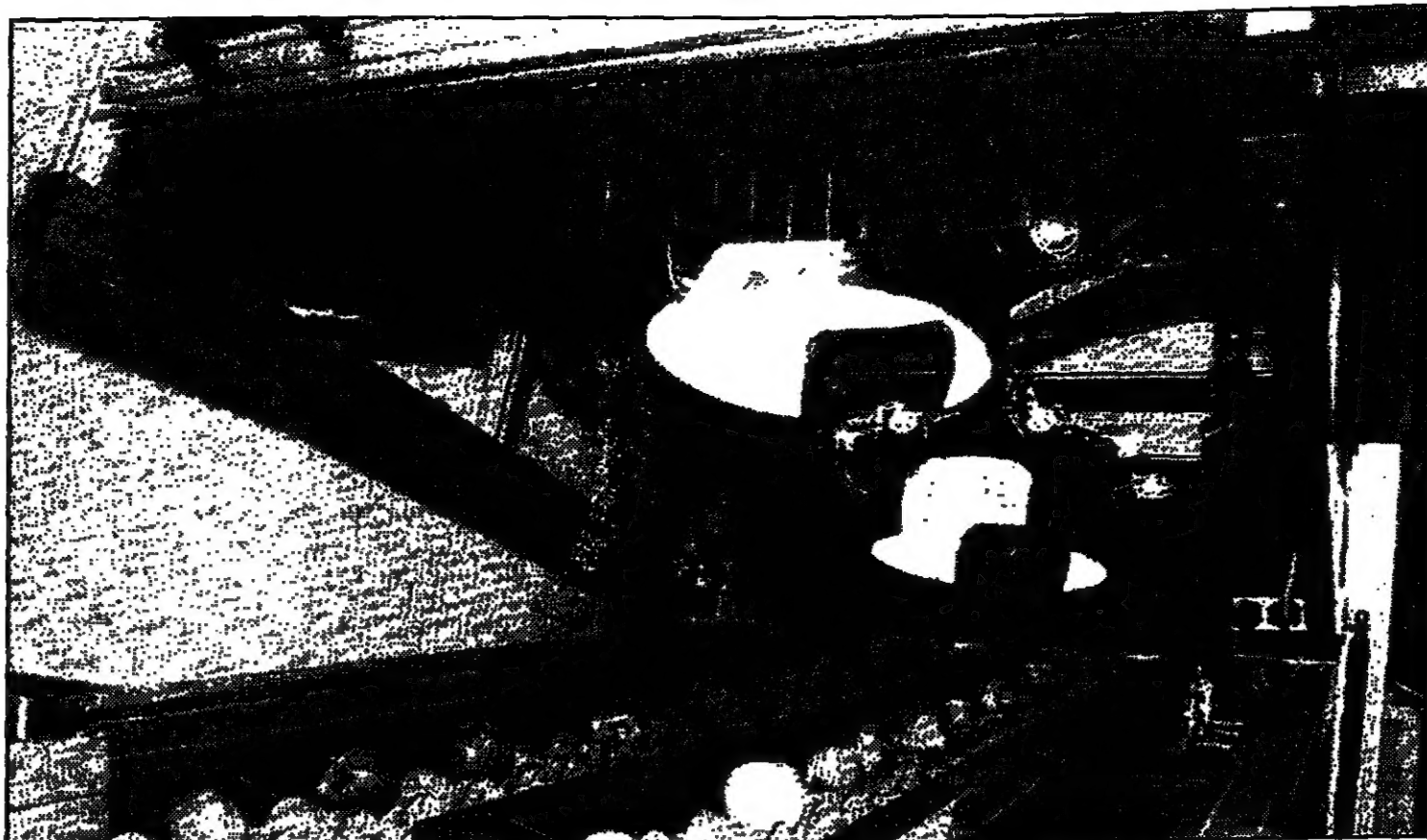
Until now, scales have weighed produce to sort it according to its bulk, while video cameras are used to determine color. But quality grading for blemishes has always had to be done by hand. Human sorting for quality is completely subjective, says Eran, "and decisions taken at 8 a.m. are different from those taken at 3 p.m., when the sorter is tired."

The Optigra II system does all of these simultaneously, comparing each piece of fruit with an ideal image and matching its variations from the ideal according to thousands of stored images.

The new system, whose first sale was made to a packing house in Italy, is fully automatic, replaces 15 workers per sorting lane and requires only a single supervisor to ensure that all is proceeding smoothly. Infrared and the latest sensing technology sort up to 10 pieces of fruit per second, and the criteria for quality can be "tuned" according to the type of market for which the fruit is destined.

ERAN SAYS that the system, which costs \$30,000 for a single sorting lane (one meter long, with a computerized device about 40 centimeters high), was designed to sort apples, but is now being adapted to sort other produce.

"Next year, it will be able to handle citrus fruits, and later it will go on to avocados, subtropical fruit, tomatoes, potatoes and



The new fruit-sorting system is fully automated and replaces 15 workers per sorting lane, requiring only a single supervisor to ensure that all is proceeding smoothly.

other vegetables and eventually even flowers. It will be possible to sort any natural material — including salt crystals — using the com-

puterized system. It can detect blemishes only a millimeter or two in size caused by frost or hail, that can hardly be seen with the naked

eye," he says.

"It not only looks at the skin, but can also detect brown spots under the skin. No one else in the world

has succeeded in solving such technological problems to produce such an automated sorter. We hold patents registered in the US and in

Israel." One of its great advantages is its flexibility. "If there's an infestation of pests that cause a certain type of blemish on fruit, we can 'teach' the system to recognize the effects and vary the grading accordingly," explains Eran.

Neural network (artificial intelligence) systems, based on the way the human brain functions, provide the basis for this adaptability. The failure rate, he says, is extremely low, much below that of human sorters.

A fruit-sorting facility in Upper Galilee will be the first local customer, while agreements have been signed with companies in France and in Washington State, which is known for its high-quality apples. So far, several dozen sorting lanes have been sold.

Another advantage of the system is that it can easily be used to retrofit existing mechanical sorting equipment with no need for work to be halted for installation. The system, whose development was partially funded by the Chief Scientist's Office in the Industry and Trade Ministry, can work around the clock.

How old is the man in the moon?

By A.J. DICKERSON

The moon's age is finally getting pinned down. Of course, age is relative in a universe billions of years old, but a new study may have the moon's age down to a 20-million-year range.

Using a new tool to study lunar rocks, University of Michigan scientists have narrowed the age of the moon's formation to between 3.5 billion and 4.5 billion years. Scientists believe the moon is our solar system's second oldest body, after the sun.

ages for rocks on the moon before, but they've been rather imprecise. What we've done is pin down the age of the moon rather precisely," said geological sciences professor Alexander Halliday.

Research by Halliday, his colleague Ben-Chen Lee, and two University of Tennessee scientists also backs up the "big boom" theory of how the moon was created.

"The basic idea is that a planet about the size of Mars, or perhaps even larger, hit the Earth with a glancing blow," Halliday said. "The impact ejected material from the Earth, from the planet that hit Earth or from a combination of the two. If the moon came from the planet that hit Earth, that planet's composition had to have been similar to the Earth's composition. Halliday said. The big boom would have occurred about 50 million years after the start of our solar system.

Research was done on 21 moon rocks using a recently developed method of analyzing lunar samples. The equipment is capable of analyzing extremely small samples. In this case, less than a milligram of a gram of the metal.

isotope, or form, of tungsten. Measurements of the tungsten isotope in moon rocks yielded results that suggest when the moon would have formed, Halliday said.

The work in Michigan and that by Tennessee researchers Gregory Snyder and Lawrence Taylor looked at several types of moon rocks, said Dr. Larry Nyquist, manager of the Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometry Laboratory at NASA's Johnson Space Center at Houston. "It's a very interesting discovery and something we have to try to factor into our own measurements," he said.

There are four major theories about how the moon formed: Co-accretion: The moon formed in the same place and of the same materials as the Earth. Fission: The moon is a chunk of the Earth that was broken away from the planet and propelled into orbit by an asteroid impact.

Big boom: The moon was a Mars-size rock that hit the Earth, a large part, perhaps in the form of molten rock, ricocheted into orbit about the planet. Capture: The moon was a huge rock that strayed into Earth's gravitational pull and was caught in the planet's orbit.

A computer in every room and vehicle

By THERESA POLETTI

If you are so technophobic that just programming the video gives you the shivers, think about this: a senior computer executive is aiming at a PC in every room and in every vehicle.

Compaq Computer Corp. president and chief executive Eckhard Pfeiffer described this new goal of his industry in a keynote address to the Comdex computer show.

"The digital home will create for consumers an array of devices all related to the PC," Pfeiffer said in his keynote address to Comdex.

Pfeiffer described the future digital home with a computer server in the basement running a network of myriad computers and devices in every room ranging from a PC Theater to a device that looks like a cellular phone for electronic mail.

"There will be a general-purpose PC in the study, and some will sell for less than \$500," Pfeiffer said. "We are going to see innovations like we have never seen before."

Pfeiffer did not give a specific time frame for his predictions. Currently, fewer than 40 percent of homes in North America have PCs.

"I think every deduction in the buy price gets another slice of the population into the store," Pfeiffer said.

"It's a matter of price elasticity in the end," Pfeiffer said. Pfeiffer and another Compaq executive demonstrated the company's PC Theater system, which combines a PC and a TV in a product aimed for the living room, developed with consumer electronics giant Thomson SA and its RCA brand.

The product is in customer testing and an upgraded model now includes a DVD player to play full-motion video.

A Compaq executive sat comfortably in a living room armchair on the stage, with a remote control, illustrating how the PC Theater jumps from TV programming to movies to the Internet to PC applications.

"This is just the tip of the digital iceberg," said John Stautner, Compaq's director of entertainment products and emerging markets.

The Houston-based company first launched the PC Theater in April and said the challenge is to lower the price for the product, currently selling for about \$5,000.

Compaq also said it expects automobiles to be equipped with a PC and Internet access that will let children play video games in the back seat while the driver checks electronic mail by giving voice commands.

"You won't need to do a lot with a keyboard, it will be done by voice," Pfeiffer said. "The digital car — that definitely is not your father's Oldsmobile."

Pfeiffer noted that, for example, police cars are already becoming more commonplace with technology such as global positioning systems.

"You have more capability in the car now, it's just a matter of using it," Pfeiffer said, adding that fax machines are becoming more commonplace in cars.

Meanwhile, IBM was demonstrating a "Network Vehicle," a car that has Internet access, via a satellite link, where Web sites can be displayed on color displays at each of the passenger seats.

Compaq expects to be at the forefront of all these developments, and Pfeiffer reiterated his prediction that Compaq will become one of the top three computer makers by the year 2000.

It currently is the world's No. 1 PC maker and with its acquisition of Tandem Computers and other investments, its most powerful PCs, workstations and servers are becoming powerful enough to replace mainframe computers that store massive amounts of corporate data. His goal is for Compaq to be a \$50 billion company by 2000, up from its current projected annual revenues of about \$25 billion for this year.

Meanwhile, IBM's booth at COMDEX has an unusual device for accessing the Internet — a car that lets drivers surf the Internet, catch up on e-mail, get navigation help and drive at the same time.

The car is a result of a joint effort of IBM, Delco Electronics, Netscape Communications Corp. and Sun Microsystems Inc. and employs technologies already in use, such as IBM's voice recognition software.

The user can verbally request the computer to read aloud e-mail messages, or locate a restaurant or hotel, in a safe manner that does not interfere with driving. Called the Network Vehicle, it accesses the Internet via a satellite connection, using Hughes Electronics DirecTV and DirecPC satellite link.

The car also includes an integrated cellular phone, Netscape's Communicator software for browsing the Web, a touch-screen color flat panel for cockpit control and Sun's Java language.

A heads-up display, developed by Delco Electronics, projects onto the windshield — similar to that used by jet fighter pilots to navigate their destination or to check the vehicle functions without needing to take their eyes off the road.

Passenger seats are equipped with individual terminals for interacting with the Internet, watching television or playing video games.

IBM said that most of the technology could be made available to consumers in as little as 18 months as add-ons to their existing vehicles.

Early versions of Network Vehicles could be available in as little as four years, depending on the development cycles of new car models, IBM said. Daimler-Benz demonstrated a Mercedes wired for Internet access at the Tokyo Auto show last month. (Reuters)

Instant frozen embryos — for animals facing extinction



Embryo preservation is important not only to infertile couples but also for preserving animal species facing extinction.

Now the Volcani Institute for Agriculture Research in Beit Dagan has succeeded in carrying out "instant freezing" of a wide variety of cells and tissues sensitive to conventional slow freezing. Within less than a tenth of a second, the liquid material turns to a solid at minus 200 degrees Celsius without developing ice particles.

Under conventional freezing techniques, it took a whole minute for the temperature to drop 200 degrees, so ice particles formed.

The technique, called vitrification, was developed over a period of 10 years by Volcani's Dr. Amir Erev. It brings a sudden halt to metabolic processes and preserves the biological material in optimal form.

A female calf named Zegugit (the Hebrew word for glass) was born recently as a result of this technique. The ova were ripened and fertilized by semen from a prize-winning bull. After the cells multiplied for a week, the resulting embryo was vitrified and later defrosted for implantation in a surrogate mother.

The calf's weight and health are completely normal. Erev called the success a "breakthrough" in saving animal species from extinction.

EINSTEIN CLEARED

Albert Einstein did not steal his general theory of relativity from German mathematician David Hilbert, according to an international team of researchers that has at last exonerated him posthumously after examining a long-standing allegation of scientific theft.

The best-known accomplishment of the greatest physicist of the 20th century has long been under a small but disparaging cloud.

But in a recent issue of the journal *Science*, a team of experts disclosed newly discovered documents that apparently prove



Pandas are one of the endangered species which can be helped by the embryo freezing technique.

Einstein alone devised the complete final version of the theory. "I had personally come to the conclusion that Einstein plagiarized Hilbert," co-author Jürgen Renn of Berlin's Max Planck Institute for the History of Science told *The Washington Post*.

Hilbert developed a parallel, equivalent version independently a few days before Einstein published his epochal paper in 1915, and some scholars even have suspected that Einstein stole ideas and equations from his rival.

The evidence seemed damning. Einstein had been working on the problem of general relativity for eight long years, and had consulted frequently with Hilbert before submitting his manuscript to the Prussian Academy of Sciences on November 25, 1915. It was published a week later, on December 2, and included detailed forms of the "field equations" describing space-time curvature. The argument also satisfied a condition called "general covariance," a way of postulating laws of motion without respect to any particular space coordinates.

Hilbert, however, had completed

and sent off his paper on the subject, marked with the legend "submitted on 20 November 1915." The final version was published on March 31, 1916. But clearly it had been finished at least five days before Einstein's.

And in its final published form, it contained complete field equations consistent with general covariance — astonishing, considering that Hilbert had only been working on the problem of general relativity for a few months.

The "conclusion is almost unavoidable," Renn said, "that Einstein must have copied from Hilbert."

But in the course of searching through Hilbert's archives in Göttingen, Germany, Leo Corry of the Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas in Tel Aviv, uncovered a galley proof of Hilbert's article on which the printer had stamped the date December 6, 1915.

In the margins of the galley proof, Hilbert had handwritten the addition "first introduced by Einstein." And in the final printed version, he acknowledges the priority of "the magnificent theory... established by Einstein."

Corry, Renn and John Stachel of Boston University examined the proof copy and found it did not contain explicit field equations and did not claim general covariance.

Suddenly, the plagiaristic tables were turned. Hilbert must have borrowed from Einstein (they exchanged manuscripts frequently, though they came at the subject from very different perspectives), and probably added Einstein's equations during extensive revisions.

LOCAL SCIENTISTS

Two Israeli scientists are final candidates in a field of 90 for an international prize to be awarded by the Helena Rubinstein company and UNESCO.

Dr. Aliza Adler, a cancer researcher at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus, and Dr. Shoshana Weiss, who researches alcoholism, have been chosen among thousands of women scientists around the world and risen to the finals.

The Helena Rubinstein Prize for Women in Science, worth \$20,000, will be awarded for the first time to just four outstanding recipients.

A panel of 12 scientists — including at least one Nobel Prize winner and UNESCO director-general Federico Mayor — from Africa, South America, Europe and Asia will choose the winners.

The award ceremony will be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in January. A survey conducted by the cosmetics company Helena Rubinstein, which has set aside money for the prizes, found that only 5 to 10 percent of women scientists reach positions of national and international importance, and only 1% of researchers who brought evidence from other sources in their scientific papers quoted women.

Adler is an expert in the field of immunology and has published important papers on malignant melanoma; she is now developing components for a vaccine against the skin cancer.

Weiss is the only Israeli scientist in the field of alcoholism. She developed a school curriculum on alcoholism and has promoted the approach that regards excessive drinking as a disease.

ISRAELI SHARES
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Dow closes up in
shorter session

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks rose Friday, following rising Asian stocks and the first glimpse of the strength of retail sales in the holiday shopping season.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 28.35 points to 7,823.13 in light post-Thanksgiving trading, extending the previous session's rally. The abbreviated trading day ended at 1 p.m., with broad market indexes mostly higher.

The Commerce Department's report that Americans' income grew a healthy 0.5 percent in October, following a smaller 0.3% gain in September and 0.6% in August, failed to spur major inflation fears among investors. Economists say income gains reflect steady wage increases stemming from low unemployment that has created a tight labor market favoring job seekers.

Spending also increased 0.5% in October, and some analysts said holiday sales may exceed recent forecasts for mediocre returns.

On Wall Street, advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 3-to-2 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1693 up, 1029 down and 551 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 188.91 million shares, vs. 484.06 million shares in the previous session.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock list rose 4.21 to 955.85, the NYSE composite index rose 1.92 to 499.23, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 6.05 to 1,500.55.

Bucking the trend, the American Stock Exchange composite index dipped 0.14 to 662.35.

Europe

A strong opening to a shortened Wall Street trading session provided a boost to European markets on Friday, but the London Stock Exchange remained mired in a downward slide.

The Dow Jones Industrial index gained 52 points or 2/3 of a percentage point in the first two hours of trade, but volumes were slight as many dealers were still away from the desks following Thursday's Thanksgiving holiday.

"The market is very quiet but the tone is quite firm," said Jim Toth of McDonald & Co.

Share dealing in London was similarly subdued in a dearth of corporate, economic and market news, and the firm opening in New York did little to change that.

"It is extremely quiet, volume is almost non-existent," said Jeremy Batstone, head of research at NatWest Stockbrokers.

The FTSE 100 blue-chip index

Dollar reaches
5-year high
vs. yen

NEW YORK (AP) — The dollar jumped to a five-year high against the Japanese yen in this trading Friday as dealers anticipated another failure in Japan's ailing financial sector.

The US currency also gained against the German mark on diminishing prospects for higher German interest rates, but fell against the British pound as UK rates seemed poised to rise.

Dealings occurred mainly in Asia and Europe as US trading rooms were thinly staffed on the day after Thanksgiving.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Hypercol, 24 Karnei Nesharim, 622-2383; Belem, Saleh e-Din, 627-2315; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-0108; Dar Adawa, Herods Gate, 628-2058.

Tel Aviv: Pharma Dal Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Givri, 546-2040; Superpharm, 641-7117; Tel Aviv, Monday: Pharma Dal Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Givri, 546-2040; Tel Aviv, Monday: Pharma Dal Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Givri, 546-2040.

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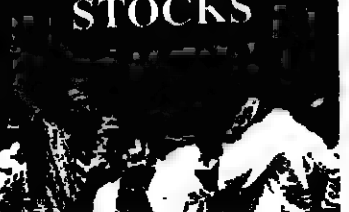
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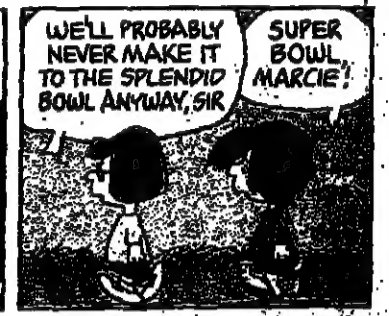
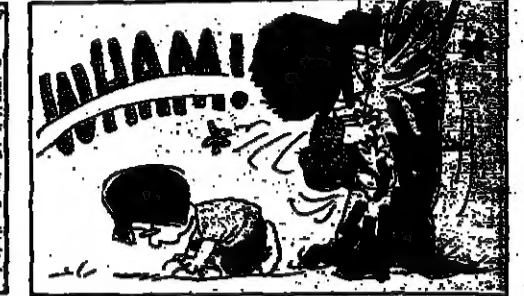
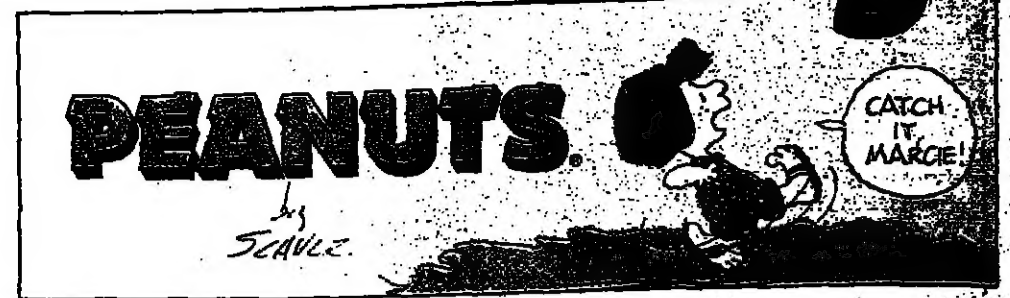
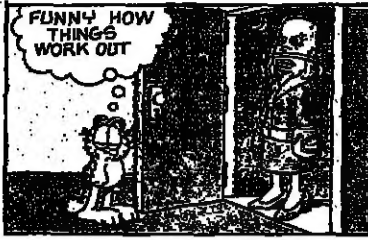
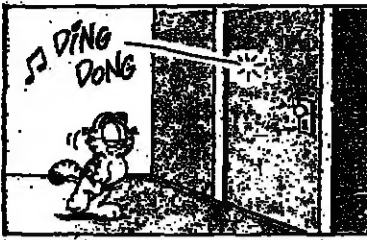
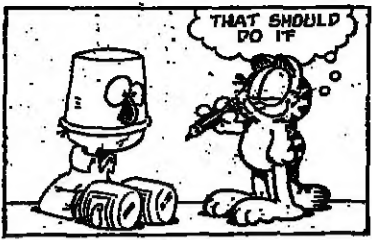
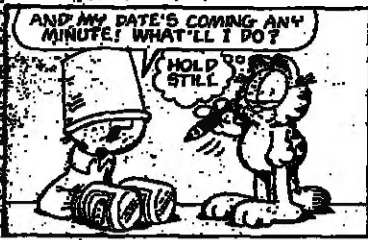
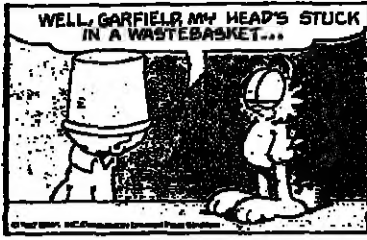
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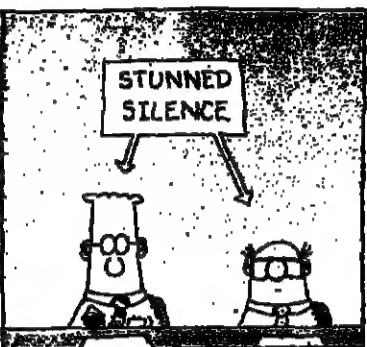
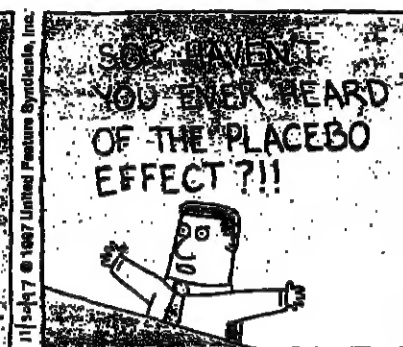
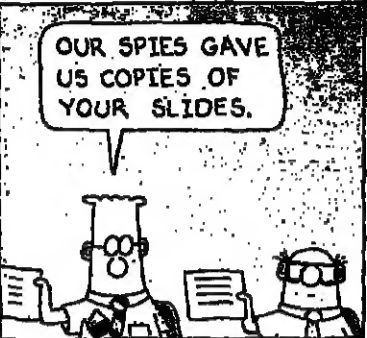
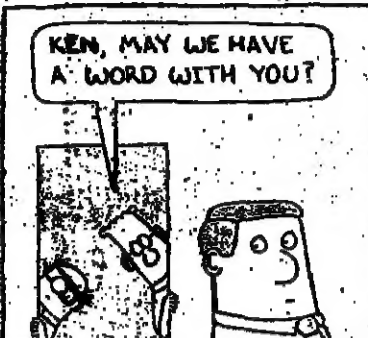
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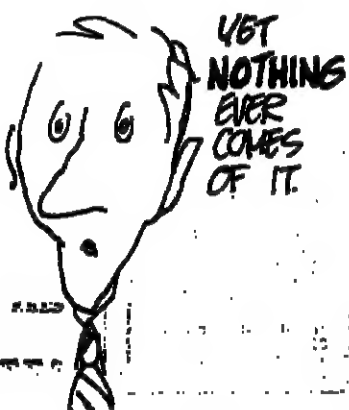
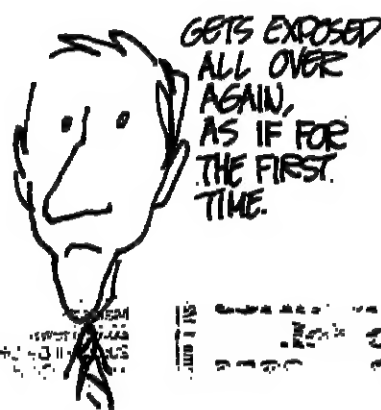
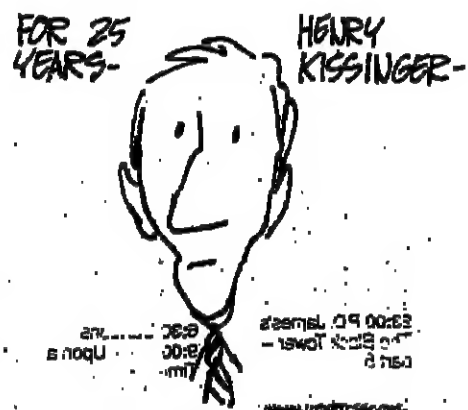
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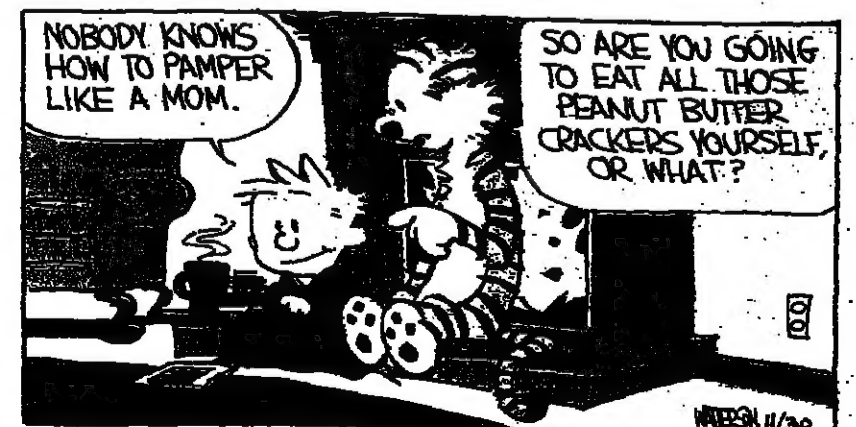
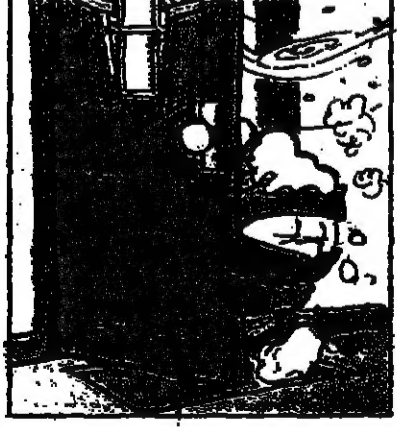
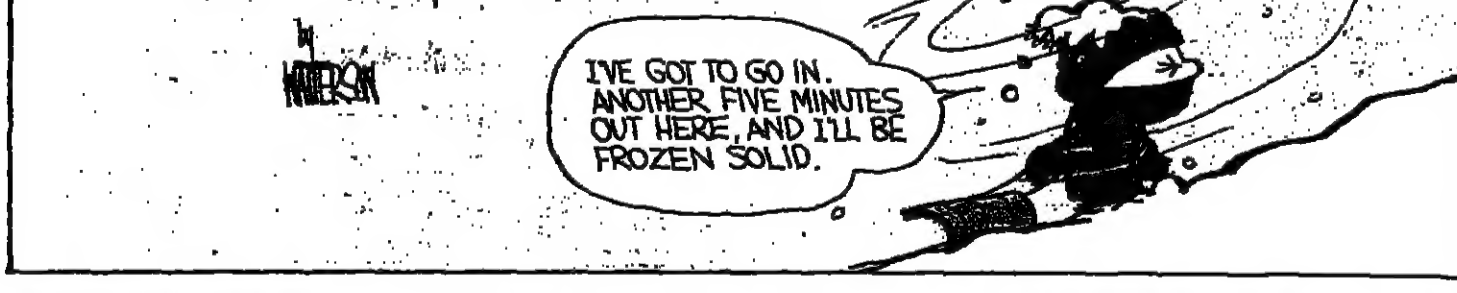
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FEELER



Calvin and Hobbes



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Aussies miss World Cup bid

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Israel beats Ukraine

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Israel's national team overcame a freezing cold gym and generally terrible conditions in Kiev last night to defeat Ukraine, 65-62 and improve to 2-0 in the preliminary round of the European Championships.

The score at halftime was 33-33 after both teams had trouble warming up on the ice cold court. According to radio reports, the Israeli players were housed in a hotel where there was no hot water.

Nonetheless, coach Muli Katzur's club overcame the much taller Ukrainians, who have five players 2.08 or taller, to score their second victory of the week after beating Belarus at home Wednesday night.

Israel travels to Denmark next for a match-up against a Danish club which is considered one of the weakest in Group C. A second road victory in that game would give Israel a serious push towards a spot in the championships scheduled for France in 1999. Last night's loss dropped Ukraine to 0-2 after their loss to Spain last week at home, the two home defeats seriously impeding their chances of getting to France in 1999.

Waugh sets Aussies on strong course

HOBART (AP) — Mark Waugh continued with his new found batting form with a fine 81 to put Australia in control of the third cricket Test against New Zealand yesterday.

But New Zealand's hopes of preventing Australia taking the series 3-0 got a boost when rain robbed a further three hours of play on either side of the tea break on the third day.

In reply to Australia's 400, New Zealand, in the 25 minutes of play possible before rain, was 15 without loss with Bryan Young and Matt Horne unbeaten on 11 and two respectively.

Only 59 minutes of play was possible on the first day after rain and had light prevented play. A total of eight hours have been lost over three days.

New Zealand's first task at hand will be to score 201 and avoid the ignominy of following on. It needs another 186 runs to make Australia bat again.

The home side has already clinched the series with wins in the first two Tests in Brisbane and Perth.

Pakistan-West Indies

A resolute unbeaten 121-run fifth-wicket stand between Sherwin Campbell and Shivnarine Chanderpaul guided West Indies to 179 for four on the first day of the second Test against Pakistan at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

When bad light stopped play 13 overs before bedtime, both batsmen had cracked fine unbeaten half centuries and were involved in a great rescue act after Pakistan had reduced West Indies to 58 for four midway into the second session.

Campbell scored his second successive Test half century after his 66 in the first Test and was unbeaten on a defiant 66 off 230 balls and had stayed at the wicket for 310 minutes. He took 236 minutes to complete his 11th Test half century off 170 balls, hitting six fours. Chanderpaul was more adventurous and consumed 89 deliveries for his 15th Test half ton.

How the college basketball top 25 teams fared Friday:

2. Kansas (6-0) beat Florida State 73-58. 4. North Carolina (5-0) beat Seton Hall 95-65. 6. Purdue (5-0) beat Massachusetts 82-69. 7. UCLA (1-1) beat Alaska-Anchorage 92-68. 11. Connecticut (5-1) beat Arizona State 82-61. 18. Oklahoma (3-1) lost to Butler 73-63. 19. Louisville (2-0) beat Illinois 58-57. 21. Indiana (1-2) lost to Hawaii 82-65. 22. Georgia (5-1) beat Texas 94-76.

Sweden tops US for 6th Davis Cup title

GOTEORG (AP) — Sweden captured the Davis Cup title for the sixth time yesterday when Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti beat Jonathan Stark and Todd Martin in the doubles to give their team an unassailable 3-0 lead over the US.

Bjorkman and Kulti made sure of the Swedish victory before today's reverse singles by winning 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

"It feels wonderful," Bjorkman said. "I think we played very well." They fought back a couple of times and it was tough, but we were tough mentally," he said.

The Swedes won both opening singles Friday and took a 2-0 lead into the doubles in the best-of-five series.

"The boys did a fantastic job," said Swedish captain Carl-Axel Hageskog.

The American team was left without top-ranked Pete Sampras, who had to default his match to Magnus Larsson because of a pulled calf muscle.

"We were hoping for Pete to step up and tie the score," Stark said. "But it didn't affect us today, Todd and I lost to a better team."

Sweden won its first title in 1975, and followed with triumphs in 1984, 1985, 1987 and 1994.

On Friday, Bjorkman beat Michael Chang 7-5, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3. Larsson lost the first set to Sampras, 6-3, won the second 7-6 and was up 2-1 in the third when the American was forced to default.

"I felt a pain in my calf in the middle of the second set," said Sampras in a statement released after the match. "It didn't make sense to continue the way I was feeling."

Sampras was taken in a wheelchair for an MRI Friday night at Sahlgrenska Hospital and was ruled out for further play by Dr. George Fared, the US Davis Cup physician. The injury will require three to four weeks to heal.

Sampras stayed in his room and watched the doubles on TV.

"You have to play with the cards you are dealt with," said US captain Tom Gullikson. "We were dealt a particular hand this week-end. Certainly the Swedish team was the better team this weekend."

Trouble in Goteborg was becoming painfully familiar to the Americans, who have lost twice here to Sweden in key Davis Cup matches.

In a 1994 Sweden-US semifinal showdown, Sampras beat Larsson but was forced to retire in the third singles against Stefan Edberg and Sweden won the series 3-2.

In 1984, the US lost to Sweden 4-1 in the finals, again in Goteborg.

The doubles began to go Sweden's way when Stark had his



FIRE UP — Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman (r) leaps toward Niklas Kulti after winning the doubles match against the US and taking the Davis Cup crown, 3-0. (Reuters)

serve broken in the ninth game. Martin botched a volley opportunity and then Stark hit a forehand out for a 5-4 Swedish lead.

"We were 40-0 up on my serve but we didn't finish the point," Stark said. "It was a huge game to lose. It got themselves and the crowd fired up." Bjorkman served out the set.

Sweden got an early break in the third game of the second set, but the Americans hit right back, taking advantage of two straight volley errors by Bjorkman.

The American revival was brief, however. Stark was broken for the second time in the set by a tremendous return by Kulti that gave Sweden a 4-3 lead.

The Swedes did not let the opportunity slip away. Kulti fired an ace down the middle line on his third set point to put the host nation two sets up.

"Against a team of their caliber, it's difficult to fight back," Martin said. "The way they returned in the first two sets was some of the best returns I've seen."

Zola leads Chelsea to 2nd

LONDON (AP) — Italian Gianfranco Zola, struggling through a sub-par season, secured a hat-trick yesterday to move Chelsea into second place in the Premier League behind Manchester United with a 4-0 hammering of Derby.

Manchester United, who are scheduled to play at home today against Blackburn, have 31 points

— the same as Chelsea — but lead on goal difference. Blackburn have 30 points in third.

Leeds United, rejuvenated under second-year coach George Graham, came for 2-0 down to beat Barnsley 3-2 with the winning goal in the 82nd from Derek Lilley.

Leeds have 29 points, two ahead of Arsenal. Arsenal are slated to play at home in north London today against Liverpool.

Leicester moved into sixth place with a 2-0 victory at Coventry as Matt Elliott scored the second goal on a penalty in the 75th.

At the other end of the table, Tottenham with Swiss Christian Gross on the bench for his first game coaching Spurs, won 2-0 at Everton. Even with the win, Spurs stayed in 16th place. Everton — even worse off — are last in the 20-team league.

Swiss international Ramon Vega scored in the 72nd for his new Swiss coach and French international David Ginola scored the second in the 76th.

In England's first division, Nottingham Forest stayed on top with a 1-0 win at Ipswich. Forest have 41 points. Middlesbrough moved into second with a 1-0 win at home against West Bromwich Albion. Middlesbrough has 38 points. Both teams were demoted last season.

Portsmouth 1; Bradford 2; Norwich 1; Huddersfield 2; Bury 0; Ipswich 0; Nottingham Forest 1; Middlesbrough 1; West Brom 0; Oxford United 2; Port Vale 0; Sheffield United 1; Crewe 0; Stockport 3; Manchester City 1; Stoke 1; Reading 2; Sunderland 3; Tranmere 0; Wolverhampton 3; Queens Park Rangers 2.

Second Division: Brentford 1; Wrexham 1; Bristol Rovers 2; Millwall 1; Burnley 2; Northampton 1; Carlisle 0; Bristol City 3; Chesterfield 1; Southend 0; Gillingham 0; Grimsby 2; Plymouth 0; Oldham 2; Preston 3; Fulham 1; Walsall 2; Blackpool 1; Watford 2; Wigan 1; Wycombe 1; Bournemouth 1; York 1; Luton 2.

Third Division: Barnet 2; Darlington 0; Cambridge United 2; Hartlepool 0; Cardiff 1; Scarborough 1; Chester 1; Exeter 1; Hull 3; Doncaster 0; Lincoln City 1; Macclesfield 1; Mansfield 0; Leyton Orient 0; Notts County 2; Peterborough 2; Rochdale 0; Torquay 1; Rotherham 3; Colchester 2; Scunthorpe 0; Brighton 2; Shrewsbury 0; Swansea 1.

Scottish Premier: Hibernian 1; Motherwell 1; Kilmarnock 2; Dunfermline 1; Rangers 3; St. Johnstone 2.

Israel juniors stun hosts Germany 1-0 to reach European Championship finals

Israel's national junior (under-16) soccer team managed almost the unthinkable in Gelsenkirchen on Friday when they beat hosts Germany 1-0 to advance to the finals of the European Championships. In order to make the finals — which will be held in Scotland next year — for the third time in succession, the Israeli boys needed a win, following their

7-1 defeat of Moldova and their 1-1 draw with Switzerland, the other two sides which made up the qualifying group.

This weekend's Toto Cup results: Betar Jerusalem 3, Ironi Rishon LeZion 2; Hapoel Tel Aviv 4, Maccabi Haifa 0; Maccabi Tel Aviv 0, Maccabi Herzliya 0; Hapoel Petah Tikva 3, Bnei Yehuda 1; Hapoel Haifa 2, Hapoel

Ashdod 0; Hapoel Beersheba 0, Hapoel Beit She'an 2; Ironi Ashdod 2, Hapoel Jerusalem 2; Hapoel Kfar Sava 0, Maccabi Petah Tikva 2.

Toto line: 1, 1, X, 1, 2, X, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, X, X, 2.

Toto Plus: 1, 1, X, X, 1, 2, X, 2, 2, X, 2, 2, 1, X.

Toto Teko: 7, 13, 14, 16, 19, 22, 25.

Ori Lewis



ALL OFFENSE — All Black Jonah Lomu tries to break through the Welsh defense. New Zealand beat Wales 40-7 yesterday at Wembley. (Reuters)

All Blacks, Springboks win big

WEMBLEY (AP) — Christian Cullen scored three tries as New Zealand celebrated its first appearance at the home of English soccer with a 42-7 victory over temporarily-homeless Wales yesterday.

After wins over Ireland and England, the All Blacks ran in five tries in a one-sided game at Wembley. The game was played here in north London because Wales' biggest stadium, the Arms Park at Cardiff, is being rebuilt for the 1999 World Cup.

Cullen, rated the finest fullback in world rugby, took his tally to 22 tries in 21 tests as he continually ran at an overworked Welsh defense.

In a thrilling match before 78,000 fans, back row Taine Randell and scrum half Justin Marshall also crossed the Welsh line, fly half Andrew Mehrtens kicked four conversions and two penalties and back rower Zinzan Brooke kicked a late drop goal.

Winger Nigel Walker scored Wales' lone try, converted by Neil Jenkins but, by that time, his team was 39-0 down.

The All Blacks, who meet England again at Twickenham next week, took the lead in the sixth minute after a slick move from left to right of the field.

Mehrtens passed the ball wide to winger Jeff Wilson who was tackled by Walker but managed to get it inside to Randell. Welsh fullback Kevin Morgan grabbed the back row forward but Randell had too much power and dived over. Mehrtens missed the conversion but kicked a 40-yard penalty three minutes later to make it 8-0.

Springboks 29, England 11

South Africa continued its triumphant tour of Europe with a victory at Twickenham after trailing 11-0 just before halftime.

The Springboks, who already had crushed Italy and then France twice, replied with tries by prop forward Adrian Garvey, center Andie Synnott, lock Mark Andrews and scrum half Werner Swanepoel as England, who played well in the first half, was outclassed in the second.

Fly half Henry Honiball kicked two conversions and a penalty and fullback Percy Montgomery kicked one conversion.

England's 16th minute try came from center Nick Greenstock while Mike Catt, who later went off with concussion, kicked two earlier penalties.

South African coach Nick Mallett wasn't impressed with his team's performance before half time while his England counterpart, Clive Woodward, wasn't happy with the way his team let the game slip.

"We made so many errors in the first half, I think more than we did in two Tests against France," Mallett said. "It was simply a question of playing it closer to the pack and get the big boys to run into them."

Woodward thought his team tired after a good first half showing.

Catt, who missed three easy kicks against the New Zealand All Blacks last week, fired a 40-yard penalty between the posts in the seventh minute after the Springboks were penalized in a maul.